

The image shows the front cover of a vintage scrapbook. The cover is made of dark, textured material, likely black leather or faux leather, and is decorated with intricate blind-tooled patterns. A wide, ornate border of repeating leaf and vine motifs frames the entire cover. In the center, there is a rectangular area with a double-line border. Within this area is a smaller, vertically oriented octagonal label with a gold-colored, pebbled texture. The label is framed by a decorative black border featuring floral and scrollwork elements. The words "Scrap Book" are printed in a black, elegant cursive script on the gold label.

*Scrap
Book*

Lott Decided He Couldn't—

How Can You Pay for a Farm With This Kind of Soil?

—So He Did Something About It

A few seasons ago, just after he had purchased his 161-acre Guilford township farm, Robert Lott was walking through one of the fields with a fellow who had been helping him saw wood.

Lott's companion kicked the turf. "How," he inquired, "do you ever expect to pay for a farm with this kind of soil?"

It was a \$64 question and Lott gave it a lot of thought. And he found the answer. He decided to build up the fertility—and the productivity. The necessary process was simply one of conservation farming.

Lott discussed his experiences, and explained his farm plan with colored maps, during a meeting of PHA's tenant-purchase program participants at Kendall Place Tuesday.

Before he could join in a Monroe County Soils District planning group Lott launched some conservation practices, including contouring, on his own. Then, aft-

er joining the district's Planning Group 8, he intensified his efforts.

He says the conservation practices already are paying off in cold cash, principally in the pasture-forage bracket. And he anticipates that rotations, contouring and terracing projects will keep his good land good and make his poor land better.

Lott is following a six-year rotation on his cropland. It is corn—grain with sweet clover plowed under—corn—grain—two years of meadow with a grass and legume mixture.

He's well started on terrace construction and will have about a dozen of them. He's also planning a pond.

Lott, who described himself as a "lazy" man with a "houseful of women" (he has three daughters) doesn't find conservation farming difficult. He said it's the easy way of doing things.

Farmers Will Treat Oats This Year

Donald Coe, Iowa State College plant disease specialist, said this week that Iowa farmers are making plans to treat their seed oats before seeding time next spring.

The oat blight disease, *Helminthosporium*, which appeared in many parts of Iowa last year, has made farmers more aware than ever of the need for seed treatment. Treating the seed will protect the crop during the crucial seeding period when blight often does the most damage.

Need Old Varieties

Treatment will be especially important next year on seed of the Tama, Boone and Control oats, which are susceptible to the blight. While Clinton and Benton oats are resistant to the disease, there will not be enough seed for all farmers next year. Marion also is resistant, but supplies of it are limited.

Many farmers have said they would rather use treated seed of the older varieties than pay the extremely high prices being asked for some varieties being advertised as "Clinton-type" or "sister oats to Clinton."

Coe says that this seems like sound judgment. While some of the varieties being sold commercially did originate at Iowa State College, the seed is not certified, and the farmer would be assuming a risk in addition to paying a high price.

Treatment Good Always

Seed treatment, Coe points out, is a sound practice every year. Nearly all commercial hybrid producers treat corn seed as a protection for their farmer customers, and tests have shown that treated seed will outyield untreated by an average of 2 bushels per acre over a period of years. With oats, a farmer must have his own seed treated, but the increase in yield over untreated seed will average as much as 4 bushels higher.

Coe says that farmers who ask about the seed treatment for oats are advised to use New Improved Ceresan. The treatment can be made any time from now until spring and should be done at least 24 hours before seeding. Many farmers will want to get the job out of the way this winter so that planting won't be delayed next spring.

The seed can be treated on the farm or at the local grain elevator or seed house where treating equipment is available. Instructions on home treating can be obtained from the extension director's office.

Week

Help Farmers Lay Out Own Crop Lines

Programs Scheduled For Miller, Currie, Faber, Cass Farms.

Four contouring demonstrations will be staged in Monroe county next week by farmers and the United States Department of Agriculture Council.

Purpose of the programs is to instruct producers in contour procedures so they may lay lines on their own cropland.

Agricultural agency representatives who will conduct the demonstrations include John Botts and Harold Anderson, Soil Conservation Service; Paul Peterson, Extension Service; Robert Koch, Farmers Home Administration; Ed Agans, Rural Electrification Administration; and Phil O'Brien, Ray McCollum and Arnold Anderson, Agricultural Conservation committee.

Here's the schedule:

Tuesday, April 15, 1 p.m.—R. A. Faber farm, Urbana township, southeast Monroe county; and Loren Cass farm, Cedar township, six miles west of Lovilia, northwest Monroe county.

Wednesday, April 16, 1 p.m.—Orlo Miller farm, Mantua township, northeast Monroe county; and William Currie farm, Jackson township, southwest Monroe county.

All farm operators and landowners are invited to attend the demonstration plots nearest their farms.

Contouring—a process of planting crops around rather than up and down hills—is gaining steadily in popularity among conservation farmers. AAA committeemen, along with other agricultural agency representatives, are devoting much time to assisting farmers in laying lines.

AAA Committeeman Arnold Anderson said that agency is receiving a steady flow of requests for contour line help. The committeemen are moving from farm to farm as rapidly as possible, but need the cooperation of producers in order to cover the maximum amount of territory before row crop planting season. Farmers who get their help should have plenty of stakes available, and should invite neighbors to watch the work, it was said.

January 23, 1947

AAA Helping In Contour Project

Anderson, McCollum, Others Will Lay Out Cropland Lines.

Farmer-administrators of the AAA program in Monroe county will give farmers a hand in laying out contour lines for 1947 crop plantings. It was announced at Agricultural Conservation committee headquarters here.

Arnold L. Anderson and Ray V. McCollum, members of the com-

Sign Up Now

Monroe county farmers who have not signed intentions to participate in the 1947 farm program are urged to do so immediately by AAA Chairman Phil O'Brien.

AAA is now operating on a skeleton budget that has forced drastic retrenchments in program operations. There are no funds to finance farm-to-farm trips by community committeemen, so consequently intentions sheets are not being delivered as in previous years.

"All those who have not signed and are planning to participate should call at the county office as soon as possible as the deadline for signing farm plans is in the very near future," O'Brien warned.

mittee, and several assistants are set to begin work in the fields this week.

A large number of requests for assistance are on file—and because of the heavy volume of work ahead farmers are advised to have plenty of stakes available for marking lines. It is imperative, Anderson said, that work on each farm progress rapidly so that the maximum number of fields can be reached each day.

AAA men suggested that where there are several farmers in the same neighborhood with contouring scheduled for this year, they pitch in and help one another when the committeeman calls to lay out the lines, in order to speed up the work.

Farmers will be notified a few days ahead of time as to when to expect the contour line assistance.

It is anticipated that contoured acres will touch a new record total in Monroe county this year. The practice has been proving its worth in conserving soil and moisture in wet years, and is getting extra aids now from all agricultural

January 23, 1947

March 31, 1947

April 10, 1947

Going Around in Circles



Among the many farmers along highway 34 co-operating in this season's crop contouring campaign is John Crall of Guilford township, who stopped work in a field west of here recently to talk over contour plowing problems with AAA Committeeman Ray McCollum, left, and County Extension Director Paul Peterson. They helped Crall lay out his contour lines. He's planted on the contour before, but this year is getting his first experience in 'plowing on the level on a hill.'

May 19, 1947

Soils Short Course Slated June 3, 4

County Extension Director Paul Peterson this week received word from R. M. Vifquain, director of short courses, that the soil management and Land Valuation short course will be held June 3-4 at Iowa State college.

The two-day course, the 20th such course offered by the college dealing with land valuation and soil management, will be devoted to drainage problems, crop rotation, soil tests, erosion, land evaluation and marginal land management practices this year.

The course, while of special interest to rural appraisers and farm managers, can be beneficial to everyone associated with the business of farming.

May 19, 1947

Attend Soils Parley In Lucas County

Soil District Commissioners Sterling Martin and James Foster, Farm Planner Harold Anderson and District Conservationist Sylvan Runkel of Ottumwa went from here Tuesday to a soils conference in Chariton.

The Chariton meeting was arranged by the Iowa Soils Conservation committee for representatives from Madison, Warren, Marion, Monroe, Wayne, Davis, Appanoose, Decatur, Lucas, Clarke, and Mahaska counties.

June 5, 1947

Soils Expert Quits 4-County Office

G. M. Schroeder, district conservationist for Monroe, Appanoose, Davis and Wapello counties, has resigned from government service effective June 27.

Schroeder, frequently here in connection with Monroe County Soils District activities, said he has purchased a nursery and greenhouse business at West Plains, Mo. and will devote full time to its management.

As district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, a federal agriculture department agency, he has had headquarters in Ottumwa.

Schroeder entered soil conservation work in this area in September, 1944, as a farm planner for Wapello county. When state SCS districts were divided last year, he was placed in charge of the four-county area including Monroe.

He is married and has two children.

Frank Mendel, Ames, state soil conservation director, will name Schroeder's successor.

June 5, 1947

Deadline for Plow Entries August 10

The deadline for the second annual National Plow Terrace Contest has been set for August 10th according to the chairman of the contest committee, Herman Schweppe. The contest, which is to be held August 27 on the Alvin Oehlerking farm in Cass county, Nebraska, is expected to attract an even larger number of spectators than the 20,000 who attended the first contest in Mills county, Iowa last year.

The contest is sponsored by the Agricultural Committee of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the Omaha World-Herald, and the Omaha Farm Equipment Club in cooperation with the Cass County Soil Conservation District.

There will be two classes in the contest; the Mold Board Class and the Demonstrational Class. Entries should be mailed to Mr. Schweppe, Contest General Chairman, Weeping Water, Nebraska. Contestants' entries in the Mold Board Class will be judged on the following four points: Cross-sectional area of channel, tillability, uniformity of grade and alignment, and efficiency.

Chambers of Commerce, leading newspapers, farm papers, and radio stations, have all joined in the efforts to publicize the need for greater participation of farmers in soil conservation. Cooperation by all of these groups with government agricultural agencies is beginning to show results through increased conservation of the land.

June 5, 1947

Need Cars for Tour Of Soils Project

Albia business and professional men who can provide cars for the June 24 tour of outstanding farm conservation projects are asked to notify Ed Agans, REA manager, or County Extension Director H. C. Peterson within the coming week.

The tour, a highlight of Conservation Week observance in Monroe county, will bring farmers and town men together for a study of what's being done and what's needed in the conservation field. Business and professional men will provide transportation for the tour, which will include stops on a number of farms.

An invitation to Albia men to participate in the Field Day at the Albia Pasture Farm June 17 has also been issued by the USDA Council, an organization of agricultural agency representatives.

First hand inspections of developments in conservation and in efficient pasture and forage production are holding the spotlight all along the farm front. Monroe county war veterans enrolled in the agricultural on-farm-training program will go to Bethany, Mo., June 12 for a tour of the SCS experimental farm.

June 5, 1947

Wake Up, America! Guard the Soil and Wildlife Which Feeds and Clothes You!

The history of man, said Van Loon, is the story of a hungry animal in search of food. In a "Missouri Conservationist" article it is pointed out by Mel O. Steen that in satisfying it he is destroying the nation's natural resources. Because Mr. Steen's story is pertinent and timely, it is reprinted here in its entirety.

If you would know the true story of Americans, their wildlife and their land, look first to history. On its pages you will find that story, revealed in the critical light of historical fact. To better understand this story, however, it is necessary to first scan the history of other men and their land. It is necessary to look at yesterday as well as today.

Look at history, and you will see a nation after nation march across its pages, to rise and flourish on the rape of a fertile land, and to pass on into national decay or oblivion with the depletion of that fertility. Look at history, America. When you do, you will see that civilized man has always mis-used the land. There are many unproductive scars on old Mother Earth, starvation-riddled lands that once adequately fed great nations. Look at the history of any nation that has ever tilled the soil and you will see that man is not worthy of his stewardship of the land. He always depletes the land, and the degree of this destruction can be measured in terms of his tenure plus his so-called civilization.

When the source of man's sustenance and material glory will no longer sustain his way of life, he does one of two things: he sinks

into individual and national decay, or he rises, by force of arms, more fertile and from some other nation. THAT is history!

Van Loon defines history in this short, yet tremendously significant sentence: "The history of man is the story of a hungry animal in search of food." But man is not possessed of physical hunger alone. His hunger engulfs the whole array of human desire, and he uses the land to satiate that hunger with little regard for the future. Man's philosophy with respect to the land is "Rip it off the hills; gouge it out of the soil; get it into the bank in one generation if possible." His slogan is "To hell with tomorrow, I want mine today!"

There are scaring words, but they are only words. I only quote from history. These are not my words, these words are written on the sands of time; they are scrawled across the pages of history—that story of a hungry animal in search of food.

So much for yesterday, now let us look at today.

You are young and you are strong, America. You are progressive, you are wise. Your way of life is different, your ideals are high, you will not do these things, you say. Let us look at the record—at your history.

You are young, America. This land has been under your control some three hundred years, more or less, or about one hundred years you have used it intensively. Tonnes of yields to feed the world have been your goal. You have produced, at a price. You have produced, but you have also ruined, partially or completely, more than half the fertile topsoil you possessed. It took the Chinese ten times as long to do as much to China!

You are strong, America. But may I remind you that your way of life, your institutions, and your society are built on, sustained by, and no better than the land which

you live! I remind you that adequate nutrition requires more than mere bulk, that nutrition is a qualitative as well as a quantitative thing. I remind you that your hill-billy is a hill-billy because he grows his food on hill-billy land. In the light of present day knowledge there can be no doubt that the true hill-billy is what he is because of malnutrition; qualitative malnutrition that dulls his mind, saps his strength, and smothers his ambition. This American is already in the process of degeneration. Do you not see him raze, and burn, and hack, and gouge the impoverished soil on which he lives, further depleting its ability to nourish him? Can you not see the vicious circle in which he lives, a circle that moves relentlessly around and around, a circle from which few escape? Must I remind you that there are other groups within your society which suffers a like fate? What are your "Tobacco Road" and your "Grapes of Wrath" if they are not symbols of this truth!

You are progressive, America. When your land fails to produce the tonnage you desire you fix things up with chemical fertilizers. But you pay no attention to the warnings of scientists whose long experience in tilling the land leads them to say that chemical fertilization is only a delusion, a stop-gap, a tonnage producer that does not restore essential, life-giving elements inherent in a fertile soil.

You are wise, America. When your overworked corn lands lost much of their fertility and their ability to produce, you came forth with hybrid corn. Your corn yields sky-rocketed, and you are still congratulating yourself on your ingenuity. But you fail to take note of one significant thing. You overlook the fact that history will record hybrid corn as being that corn which had the ability to take fertility out of the soil twice as fast as any corn that

many had ever grown before!

The truth is, America, that your own land-use history records you as the greatest spendthrift of all time. You have developed bigger, better and faster ways of using up soil fertility than has any nation in all the world. You are the champion playboy of all history, and your extravagance is exceeded only by your disregard of the consequences.

"And what," you may well ask, "had all this to do with wildlife?" Simply this, that nature makes no distinction between wild and tame life insofar as soil fertility is concerned. In Mother Nature's book nutrition is nutrition and life is life. It makes no difference whether that life be wild or tame.

It is true, however, that mis-use of the land is a two-edged sword insofar as wildlife is concerned. It reduces protective cover as well as fertility. Adequate protective cover and adequate nutrition are the two big essentials of wildlife production, and both these essentials are impaired by mis-use of the land.

At the present time prices of farm products are very high and the economic incentive to squeeze

every last pound of production out of the land is great. Our land is being squeezed, and protective cover is being reduced to a minimum. The immediate effect is to increase erosion and reduce wildlife, but the long time effect is to reduce land fertility and, hence, all production.

The simple truth is that man can not reduce soil fertility without all life suffering the consequences. That truth is supported by evidence which grows steadily in volume and significance. This evidence puts the emphasis on qualitative rather than quantitative nutrition. Soil fertility determines the quality and contents of foodstuffs, and the quality and contents of foodstuffs affects all life. The evidence is overwhelming. When insane men are made sane through the avenue of nutrition alone, one can no longer doubt that quality counts. Some day foodstuffs will be valued on the basis of quality, not quantity. When that day comes we may have the economic incentive that will save our soil. Until we do, we must save the land by any means we can.

The simple truth is that the growth, vigor, survival and reproduction of all life is wedded to the

land by unbreakable bonds. The truth is that America should maintain, without impairment, the fertility of her soil. Look to Washington. There you will see your government appropriating forty-five million dollars to the Soil Conservation Service to finance their work of holding America's water where it falls and her soil where it lies, and at the same time appropriating one hundred and eighty-five million dollars to the War Department with which to make down payments on dams designed to stop the water that doesn't linger where it falls and the soil that doesn't stay where it lies.

Forty-five million dollars to the doctors who feverishly strive to sew up your severed and gushing arteries, America—and frankly admit they are waging a losing fight—forty-five million dollars to the doctors who feverishly strive to suture your severed and gushing arteries, and four times that sum to the tinsmiths who beat out buckets with which you propose to preserve your life's blood.

That is not—as some may assume—an indictment of tinsmiths. It is an indictment of you, America, you,

who entertain and tolerate such a twisted, distorted, cockeyed concept of national values and national needs.

If you are not yet convinced that America doesn't know the truth, look again to Washington. There you will see many of your leaders and representatives sponsoring a movement to slash, by one-third, the appropriation for soil-conservation benefit payments. You will see the scalpels poised and ready to cut the heart and backbone out of America's principal effort to save her land. These men contend that you can not afford to pay for saving the soil, that you have better things to do with public money. You can afford, it seems, eleven billion dollars plus for national defense, but you can not afford three hundred million—2½ per cent as much—to save the very thing you propose to defend. You can afford to subsidize navigation, aviation, hydro-electric development, flood control and other special interest groups, but you can't afford to subsidize the saving of the land, in which every living American has a stake, as do all the generations yet unborn!

America, you can afford to mobilize your manhood into armies that you count by the millions, to equip them with implements of destruction that stagger the imagination, you can afford navies that swarm the seven seas, you can afford aircraft that figuratively—and literally—blot out the sun, you can afford two hundred billion dollars in the prosecution of a single war, you can afford barrels—nay rivers, of American blood; all this, and more, you can afford to save America danger from without, but a little lip service, and a token gesture here and there is all you can afford to save America disaster from within!

America, you go the way all men have gone. You are a living symbol of the truth, that history repeats itself. You are not young, you are not strong, you are not wise, you only dream these things. You live an old, deceitful dream, that blinds your eyes against the truth, that leads you down Disaster Road!

You have only one chance, and only one! Wake up! Shake off this dream! Wake up! Shake off this spell, that you may see, that you may take a better road!

Will Barbecue 4 Bees for Conservation Field Day at Farm Near Indianola

Four bees have been purchased by E. H. Felton & Co. of Indianola and will be barbecued for the Iowa Soils Conservation field day at the Bellman farm six miles northwest of Indianola, Thursday, Oct. 9. Felton & Co. grain dealers and feed manufacturers, plan to provide beef and bread for free sandwiches for 10,000 people. The sandwiches will be served by the Indianola Chamber of Commerce in a 50x70 tent on the farm.

The chief problem on the Bellman farm, one of the best managed farms in the county, is a ditch thru the north eighty, which has cut down clear through the coal measure shales and sandstones. The lower stretch of this ditch has cut almost to the basic level of the channel of Middle River, a mile away. The upper reaches have defied the efforts of the farm owner to control the wash.

The soils conservation service, under Clay Barnett, district soils conservationist, will undertake to control this ditch by a dam, by diverting water, slowing it down, terracing, and sloping the sides of the ditch and seeding them. It will be the biggest day's soil control show ever put on in Iowa.

The event is sponsored by the Farm and Home division of the Des

Moines Register and Tribune, the Federal Soils Conservation Service, Warren County Farm Bureau, Indianola Chamber of Commerce and other cooperating organizations.

While Felton & Co. provide the sandwiches, concessionaires will supply the coffee, milk, ice cream, pie and so forth. Provision is being made for ten thousand.

September 25, 1947

June 5, 1947

Monroe

Topsoil Toll As High as 125 Tons

Gullies Take 650 Acres From Crop Area in Month.

Monroe county's soil resources took a terrific lashing from rains during the May 23 through June 30 storm period.

Sheet erosion alone affected 31,900 acres of cropland and claimed an average of 45 tons of soil per acre, a land damage survey just completed by Harold M. Anderson, SCS farm planner, reveals.

On 10,700 acres rill erosion damage amounted to 125 tons per acre.

The abnormal rainfall for the period added an average of 20 feet to gullies and simultaneously removed 650 acres from cultivation. Stream-bank erosion totaled 2,592,000 cubic yards and took another 200 acres from cultivation.

Flooding of swales and small streams destroyed 3,450 acres of crops, the report says.

Anderson's summary shows a substantial credit for conservation farming. Where farmers had good soil and water conservation practices in operation, erosion was reduced an estimated 75 per cent, and runoff was cut 20 per cent. New erosion on conservation-farmed fields was .08 inches compared with a half-inch on non-conservation farmed fields. Ten thousand acres of conservation-farmed fields were affected by erosion as compared with 32,600 in the non-conservation classification.

Five farm ponds were washed out, however, and four miles of terraces were damaged.

Here are other highlights of the report:

Floodplain scour, average of five inches, 400 acres affected.

Roadside erosion, 400 miles with an average of 300 cubic yards per mile.

Deposition on upland of sand and gravel was estimated at 30 acres and three inches, while deposition of silty material was fixed at two inches for 2,000 acres. Lowland deposition of sand and gravel was four inches on 600 acres and of silty material it was an inch on 10,000 acres.

Deposition on roads and railroad rights-of-way was estimated to affect 50 miles with an average of 100 cubic yards per mile; for drainage ditches it was estimated at 1600 cubic yards per mile over 15 miles; and for farm ponds and reservoirs deposition was estimated at 10 cubic yards each for 500 of them.

July 14, 1947---

Beary

Plow Events To Feature Program

Hope to Determine Location During Parley Tonight.

Six committees have been named to plan and direct the Monroe County Plowing Contest and Soil Conservation Field Day, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 11.

The program will be sponsored by the Rural Young People's organization, with the co-operation of the Monroe County Soils District and the USDA Council.

President of the Rural Young People's organization is Raphael Beary, who presided at a preliminary planning conference last week and named the committees. Others participating in the conference

Crops

The following summary of Monroe county crop conditions today was submitted to the Iowa extension service at Ames by County Extension Director Paul D. Peterson.

Hay and Pasture Crops—Excellent with the exception that feeding value is below normal.

Corn—Sixty per cent of normal. Twenty-five per cent less acreage than originally planned.

Oats—Estimated average yield 10 to 15 bushels per acre compared with a five-year average of 24 bushels.

Soybeans—About 50 per cent crop, producers not getting full stands.

Wheat—Normal. Acreage small. Emergency Crops—Some planting still in progress. One dealer reports sales of buckwheat and emergency forage crop seed totaling ton for past month.

were Sterling Martin, chairman of the board of soils district commissioners; Harold Anderson, farm planner; Paul D. Peterson, extension director; and Ruth Stewart, Tom Dougherty, Frank Chelar, Charles McFarland and James Bell.

If a proper location can be found the program will include a contour plowing contest, straight and level plowing contest, a demonstration covering preparation of grassed waterways, a terracing demonstration with tractor and plow and a terracing demonstration with the whirlwind terracer. Committees follow:

General Committee—Raphael Beary, chairman, Sterling Martin, Tom Dougherty, Bob Koch, Howard Willson, Harold Anderson, Phil O'Brien, Paul Peterson and Harold Mason.

Publicity Committee—Duke Norberg, chairman, Gayle Bennett, Ruth Stewart, Helen Johnson, Dorothy Walton, Ed Agans and Raymond Winecup.

Program Committee—Ray McCollum, chairman, Frank Chelar, Albert Castings, Clell Van Dorin, Alton Wilcox, Rolla Foster and Donald Plum.

Location and Technical Arrangements Committee—Harold Anderson, chairman, James Foster, James Bell, Charles McFarland, John Botts and Arnold Anderson.

Food and Concessions Committee—Ruth Stewart, chairman; Mrs. H. M. Berry, Mrs. Denzil Patton, Winifred Evans, Mrs. C. R. Sandifer, Augusta Beadle, Mrs. Clint Swartz and Mrs. Frank Wilson.

Grounds Committee—Howard Willson, chairman, Lloyd Goode, Bob Coons, Glen Garrett, Jack Landsperger, and Paul D. Peterson.

A meeting of the Location and Technical Arrangements committee will be held tonight in the Farm Bureau office.

General Chairman for Conservation Day

Blakesburg Plowman in Cont

August 28, 1947

Robert Goode of Blakesburg Wednesday became the fourteenth entry in the Soil Conservation Field Day plowing matches—moving the list of competitors off the 13 figure which had some of the more superstitious championship seekers worried.

Goode will go in the level plowing match, along with Tom Dougherty, Clifford Davis, W. D. Wilson, Paul Shelquist, George McCombs, George Gergely, Lloyd Clark, George Leffler and Lloyd Goode.

Both level and contour county championships will be decided during the Sept. 4 field day at the Dr. Roy Pearson farm five miles southwest of Blakesburg. In the contour event so far are Gergely, Clark, Dougherty and Davis.

Final arrangements for the program will be made tonight, Raphael Beary, president of the Youth Organization, sponsor of the affair, announced.

The drive for funds to finance the affair will be completed Friday. An estimated \$500 is needed to pay contest prize awards and meet other expenses. Today there was about \$400 in the Field Day treasury.

Activities at the 240-acre Pearson field will get under way at 9:30 a.m. There'll be a speaking program at noon, and soil conservation demonstrations are scheduled along with the plowing matches.

Collect Soils Samples Now for Analysis By Agronomists, Peterson Suggests

Now is a good time for Monroe county farmers to take soils samples and get them sent in to the Iowa State college testing laboratory for analysis, County Extension Director Paul D. Peterson said this week.

Small grain has been harvested and those fields can be easily sampled. Now, with cultivation over and fall harvesting not yet begun, is the best time to take sample between corn rows. Too, by sampling now, results of the tests can be back in plenty of time for ordering lime and fertilizer early.

Peterson suggests taking samples where crops did not do too well. He points out that a lime or fertilizer deficiency may be the cause of poor yields.

Separate samples of light and dark-colored soils, and of areas varying in slope, drainage, soil type or past treatment, should be taken.

Samples should not cover too large an area. Even on uniform fields, not more than 10 acres should be included in one sample. Soil should be taken from 10 different places in each 10-acre area. These 10 are then dumped into a clean bucket and mixed to give a composite sample for the area.

This composite sample should be placed in a clean paper sack or ice

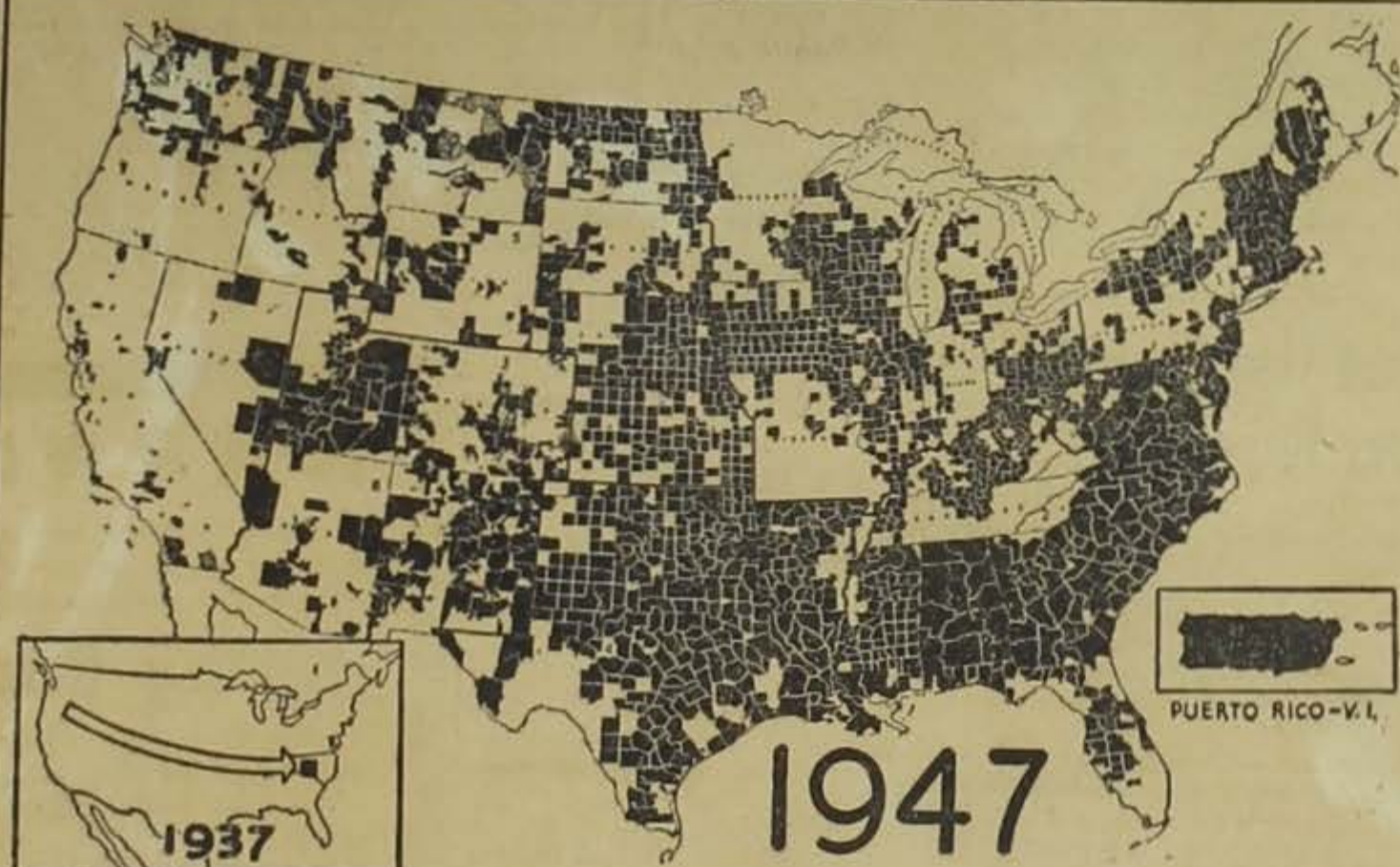
cream carton and labeled with the individual's name, field and sample number.

"Soil Sample Information Sheet," available at the extension office, must be filled out for each composite sample. The sheets should be filled out very completely and carefully because without this information it is impossible for the college agronomists to interpret the tests accurately and make sound recommendations.

The information sheets, along with the composite samples, should be sent to the Soil Testing Laboratory, Iowa State College. Heavy envelopes for mailing samples are on hand at Farm Bureau office for anyone wishing to use them.

August 4, 1947

District 10 Years Old Today



Today—tenth anniversary of the first farmer-voted and farmer-managed soil conservation district—there are a billion acres and 4.5 million United States farms in 1,900 districts. The first district established under state soil conservation district enabling laws was the Brown Creek district in Anson county, N. C., shown at lower left of map.

U. S. Farmers Celebrate 10th Anniversary Of Soil Conservation District Program

Farmers of Iowa and the other 47 states today were observing the tenth anniversary of their soil conservation district program.

The anniversary month has seen the area covered by districts in the nation pass the million-acre mark. Harold Anderson, SCS farm planner assigned to the Monroe district, reported.

At Ames State Conservationist Frank H. Mendell of SCS announced that Iowa farmers have organized and now manage the affairs of 88 soil conservation districts to which the Soil Conservation Service is furnishing technical assistance.

The first soil conservation district was voted in Aug. 4, 1947, by the farmers of Anson county, North Carolina. This was the Brown Creek district, and it opened a new era

on the American agricultural scene. "For the first time," Mendell commented, "farmers were enabled to organize by petition and by election a working organization of their own, under laws passed by their own states, and to secure in that manner technical assistance on the land—acre by acre."

At Washington, D. C., SCS Chief Hugh Bennett, credited with having done more than any other man to save the nation's vanishing topsoil, declared:

"This action by American farmers marks the beginning of a movement that can insure the permanency of our nation. It provides permanent security for our most basic natural resources—the topsoil without which America cannot survive."

Monroe

Monroe county farmers formally organized their Soil Conservation district in May, 1944.

The Soil Conservation Service assigned Farm Planner Harold Anderson to the district in July of that year.

Preliminary organization work took up the remainder of the year, and the first farm plans were put into operation in January, 1945.

Monroe's district commissioners, all farmers elected by farmers, are Sterling Martin, James Foster and Alton Wilcox.

Offers New Awards For Soils Work

Urgent need for conservation of America's greatest natural resource, its soil, is receiving fresh attention through a program of soil conservation awards announced today by The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Inc.

Top awards are winter vacation trips to Goodyear Farms near Phoenix, Ariz., where much of the company's experimental work on agriculture is centered. Preceding the trip, handsome bronze plaques will be presented to award winners at a series of testimonial dinners to be attended by prominent national and state officials and educators interested in the healthy progress of agriculture. These dinners will follow an unusual plan of bringing the guests to the rural areas where the outstanding soil conservation work has been accomplished, rather

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These are the men whose work will be given added recognition and stimulus through the Goodyear program.

Technical assistance and advice to Soil Conservation districts is provided by such agencies as the extension services of state universities, colleges of agriculture, county agents and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, a division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Goodyear awards program will recognize outstanding accomplishments in the conservation lines already being promoted by these various official agencies.

Monroe County Soils District Monroe County Soils District went on record of entering this contest and are making plans in working out a program for the contest.

Soil District Will Choose 1 Officer

Attorney General On Program for Election Night.

Monroe county farm land owners will elect a commissioner for the Monroe County Soil Conservation District during a meeting scheduled here May 21.

The term of Commissioner Sterling Martin, now chairman of the three-man board, ends May 25. He's a candidate for re-election for a six-year term. Other candidates are Pat Carbin, of soils group 13, Jackson township, and Robert Lott, of soils group 8, Guilford township. Martin lives in Wayne township and is a member of group 14.

Other commissioners are James Foster and Alton Wilcox. Foster was elected for a six-year term when the district was formed four years ago. Martin at that time was named for a four-year term, and E. G. Hawk was chosen for two years. Wilcox succeeded Hawk.

The polling place, in Farm Bureau hall, will open at 7:30 p.m. and close at 9:30 p.m. At 8 p.m. there will be a program, with an address by Iowa Attorney General Robert L. Larson as the feature. A representative of the Iowa Soil conservation committee will be here. There will be some entertainment, followed by announcement of balloting results and refreshments.

It was emphasized that the program is for all farmers.

All owners of land lying within the boundaries of Monroe county, exclusive of incorporated cities and towns, may participate in the election. Eligible voters not living in the district, or who will be absent from the district on the day of the election, may apply in person or in writing to County Auditor Isabella Hope for absentee ballots. Each applicant for an absentee ballot must give his name, residence, location and acreage of land owned or possessed, and interest in it.

In its four years of operation the district has seen 22 approved planning groups established by farmers. There are more than 150 cooperators.

Fine Re

Sudan Grass
Some farmers sowed sudan this summer. Sudan will make a comfortable oats in feeding. Cut sudan any time after headed out up to the soft stage. If sudan was seeded in corn planting time, it is to get two crops of hay. For the farmer planning on two crops of sudan hay should cut a little earlier than normal.

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Include Conservation Activities on Program for

Albia Pasture Farm On Tour Schedule For Youngsters

Lineweaver Tells Of Club Interest In Saving Soil.

What happens to the soil isn't just the concern of adults. Young people have an important stake, too, in seeing that erosion is controlled, fertility maintained and productivity increased.

That's why soil conservation activities are included in the program for Iowa's 4-H members.

G. A. Lineweaver, state 4-H boys' club leader, explains that each year counties, local clubs and members elect to include in their programs some activity connected with conservation of the soil.

What members and clubs may do varies from a general discussion of the topic in one or more meetings to the actual putting into practice of approved soil conservation measures.

Many clubs call on extension directors, Soil Conservation Service technicians, farmers who have successfully followed soil conservation practices, and other persons who are authorities on the topic to speak at club meetings. Moving pictures and film slides also are shown each year to club groups.

Both as clubs and as individuals 4-H'ers are learning how to do some of the simpler practices. They learn how to adapt a carpenter's level for use in laying out contour guide lines. They go into the fields and lay out contour lines and help with the establishment of grassed waterways in eroding fields.

One of the popular activities is to start a Reed Canary grass nursery. Either clubs or individual members sow some Reed Canary seed in a small plot. As this becomes established root cuttings are transplanted to waterways and small gullies where the growth will control erosion.

Another general activity is to make maps of members' farms showing the present cropping system and areas where soil problems exist. Then improved cropping and land use systems are planned and, in cooperation with Dad, are put into effect.

Obtaining soil samples from fields is another part of the activity which holds the interest of the junior conservationists. Studying the proper methods for obtaining samples, sending them in for soil tests, taking cropping histories of the fields and recording the information builds up interest.

Many local clubs are establishing legume and fertilizer observation plots in their home communities. These plots are treated with several combinations of fertilizer and seeded to various legumes. They are so located that they may be observed by both the club members and the general public.

A number of individual members—especially in the upper age brackets—have assumed full responsibility for starting soil conservation programs on their home farms. Many times the actual planning is done in cooperation with a Soil Conservation District

and the member then puts the practices into effect.

To further acquaint the 4-H members with research in soil conservation, annual tours to local demonstration and to state experimental farms are arranged for members. Visits to the Soil Conservation Experimental farm in Page county, to the Iowa State College Pasture Improvement farm in Monroe county and to other farms in various parts of the state help to point up the need and the way to bring about effective soil conservation practices.

To stimulate interest in 4-H soil conservation activities many local groups provide awards for individuals and clubs. Medals for county winners and bonds for state winners in the soil conservation activity are provided by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. This company also provides trip awards to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago for a group of 16 state winners and provides \$200 college scholarships for eight of this number.

Oats and Soybeans Good Hay Crop

Iowa farmers facing a shortage of hay supplies for next winter because of winter-killed legume seedlings can now turn to emergency hay crops.

Marvin Anderson, extension agronomist at Iowa State college, points out that oats and soybeans make good emergency hay crops. Soybeans, if handled properly, have about the same feeding value as alfalfa. Oats hay is about equal in total digestible nutrients and about half as high in digestible protein as alfalfa.

Meet Problem

Dairymen who had relied on new seedlings for hay have two ways to meet the problem. One is to plan for additional silage, keeping in mind the possibility of building a temporary silo. The other is to cut soybeans or oats for hay.

The farmer who faces a hay shortage probably will be better off to put his grass up for hay and to put corn in the silo. Anderson points out that soybeans also make good silage.

The quality of the hay a farmer gets from his oats or soybeans is largely determined by the way it is handled, Anderson says. Some of the factors are time of cutting, the amount of leaves saved and degree of weathering.

When to Cut

Cut oats for hay when the heads are in the milk stage. If cut later, the yield of total hay is greater, but the protein content is lower and the fiber content higher.

Soybeans should be cut for hay when the pods are fairly well filled and when the lower leaves start to turn. Anderson points out that it is important to save as many leaves as possible and not to expose the hay to the weather any longer than necessary.

Sudan Grass

Some farmers sowed sudan grass this summer. Sudan will make hay comparable to oats in feeding value. Cut sudan any time after it has headed out up to the soft dough stage. If sudan was seeded around corn planting time, it is possible to get two crops of hay. However, the farmer planning on two crops of sudan hay should cut the first a little earlier than normally.

4-H - Time
Fine Record
Compiled in

Renovate Old Pasture---and Double Yield

ALBIA, IA. — Birdsfoot trefoil is proving itself as a legume in pasture renovation on southern Iowa soils to increase beef production, field day visitors saw Tuesday at the Iowa State college pasture improvement farm at Albion.

That is one of the most promising developments coming from continuous experiments at the Albion farm. Birdsfoot trefoil is running a close second if not equal to alfalfa in a grass-legume mixture. It is a good yielder of palatable feed. Cattle like it.

At one of the stops visitors saw its use in pasture conversion. Bluegrass was plowed late in the fall of 1945 and seeded in the spring of 1946. Two areas were seeded to alfalfa-brome, two with birdsfoot trefoil-brome and two with birdsfoot trefoil-Kentucky bluegrass.

Various Mixtures.

Another stop showed the value of birdsfoot trefoil in renovating permanent bluegrass pastures. Bluegrass sod was plowed late last fall and seeded this spring—two areas with a mixture of 4 pounds of birdsfoot trefoil, 4 pounds of red clover, 2 pounds of alsike with 8 pounds of brome, and two areas to birdsfoot trefoil, red clover and alsike without brome, depending on the torn-up bluegrass sod to volunteer.

Unimproved pastures showed up with low yields and weediness. Renovated pastures were free from weeds and yielding more than double the unimproved pastures.

Farmers were impressed with the fact that there is increase in pasture yield even the first year. However, the largest increase comes in following years.

Shallow Plowing.

Shallow late fall plowing showed up to be the most feasible method of breaking up a permanent grass sod and for starting the seedbed preparation in improving pastures. The advantages of shallow plowing either in fall or spring over disking or using a deep tiller are higher production and a better control of weeds.

One of the outstanding things shown in the past two years of the continuous experiments at the Albion farm is the effect of including a legume with grass for pasture. A comparison was made of the different varieties of brome seeded alone and when seeded with alfalfa.

Including a legume more than doubles total production and raises the protein content of the feed enormously. Ladino, alfalfa and birdsfoot trefoil was compared when each was seeded with brome, orchard grass, timothy or Kentucky bluegrass.

Beef Yields.

In 1946, the greatest beef production was from alfalfa-brome which yielded 310 pounds of beef per acre. Second highest beef yielder was birdsfoot trefoil and bluegrass with 294 pounds of beef per acre. The birdsfoot trefoil-bluegrass mixture was seeded on land that had not received lime or phosphate, giving it a disadvantage.

At another stop, farmers saw ladino clover and orchard grass used for pasture. Land received lime and phosphate and had been in alfalfa-brome in the past. It was plowed late in the fall of 1946 and seeded to oats, orchard grass and ladino clover in the spring of 1947. The oats were pastured off and the orchard grass-ladino clover mixture yielded well throughout the pasture season.

Will Inspect Field Day Results



Don Bellman, Indianola farmer, points out a drop inlet and permanent wild life area, created on his farm last October at the state's first Soil Conservation Field Day, to Jo Ann McCoy and Marynetta Leitch, both of Indianola. Nearly 35,000 persons, including a Monroe county delegation, visited the Bellman place last year and saw the farm get a complete facelifting. Many of them plan to return Aug. 1 for a Soil Conservation Observance Day.

Ten months ago nearly 35,000 persons—including farm men and women and agricultural agency officials from Monroe county—visited the Don Bellman farm near Indianola for the largest Soil Conservation Field Day ever attempted in this part of the country. They saw the farm get a complete facelifting and now many of those same visitors will return Aug. 1 for a Soil Conservation Observance Day.

Nearly a year ago the crowds stood on the banks of large gullies, saw them disappear, saw the areas seeded to rye and grass. They saw fences come out and go in under the guidance of 200 farmers, saw terraces built by another dozen farmers with tractors and plows. They saw pasture plowed, chisled, disced, harrowed, limed, fertilized and reseeded by FFA boys of the Indianola High school vocational agriculture classes. All operations were done on the contour.

The crowds saw tiling machines operating, spring pipe line laid and concrete water tanks built. Diversions were built to protect gullied areas that were bladed in, and also to protect the farm buildings. Waterways were conditioned and seeded. One large earth fill was built across a permanent drop inlet structure where another concrete wall structure had failed.

More than seven inches of rain last October and a large snowfall which went off with a twynch rain did some damage, but that has all been repaired.

"Things are looking up on the Bellman farm and will keep looking better," Clay Barnett, district soil conservation officer, said.

The observance day will be sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune along with various Indianola and Warren county organizations. The theme of the day will be "The Soil, the Gift of God" and special services will be held that evening at the Warren county fairgrounds. Charles P. Taft, brother of Ohio's Senator Robert A. Taft, will be principal speaker at the program. Charles Taft, president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, has often been called the outstanding layman in America.

July 26, 1948

Fine Records Compiled in Soils Work

Change in Rules Limits Schools To Operators.

Monroe county's agricultural training school for world war II veterans now has two full-time faculty members. It was announced by Howard Willson, supervisor.

They are Don Nash and James Nash, brothers. Each will be responsible for 200 hours of classroom work, 50 hours of on-farm supervision of trainees and 50 hours of group supervision.

Don Nash came to Albia from a farm near Moravia, and James from a farm near Mystic. A war veteran, Don attended school at Iowa State college, Ames. James has had short course work at Ames and while in high school won a Future Farmers of America master farmer degree.

In cooperation with the Albia schools, the farm training program was launched by a county committee last February. There have been nearly 50 veterans enrolled during the past 11 months. Their program is similar to the job-training program in industry set up under the GI bill of rights, and they draw subsistence allowances.

Willson, who is Albia High school vocational agriculture director, said no new students will be accepted until after May 1. Classes are limited in size to 25 for each full-time instructor.

He also revealed that under a new regulation student participation will be limited to actual farm operators. There are about seven in the present classes who have farm laborer status. They'll either have to rent or buy farms by March 1 or drop out of the school. Approximately 40 of the students are farm operators, and some of them own their farms.

A report compiled this week by Willson and Don Nash, covering the farms of 83 student-operators, shows outstanding 1947 achievements in the field of soil conservation.

On the 38 farms more than a thousand acres of crops were contoured. Nearly 800 acres were seeded to legumes, lime was spread over 694 acres and phosphate fertilizer was applied to 720 acres.

Here are conservation practice statistics for the farms:

Contour cropping	1,036 acres
Terracing	112 acres
Strip cropping	171 acres
Legume seeding	798 acres
Liming	694 acres
Phosphate fertilizer	720 acres
Pasture improvement	664 acres
Timber plantings	2 acres
Ditch filling	598 linear rds.
Grassed waterways	2,307 linear rds.
Gully tree planting	1,100 linear rds.
Drainage ditches	110 linear rds.
Drainage tiling	75 linear rds.
Diversion ditches	520 linear rds.
Dams	8
Ponds	6
The 38 farms cover a total of	7,861 acres

January 15, 1948

1-4



John Botts, left, SCS technician with the Monroe county soils district, and Farmer Harold Akers inspect wheat on the Raymond Akers farm in Pleasant township. Part of a strip-cropping layout, the wheat stands straight and tall with long, well-filled heads. It promises a bumper crop. Harold Akers is Raymond's dad, and he farms in Wapello county.



Johnny Johnson, 8, is barely visible in an oats field on the Akers farm. Looking down upon Johnny in grain which almost reaches his own shoulders is Raymond Akers, owner and operator of the 120-acre farm which boasts a complete conservation layout. IF is the big word in agriculture, and IF weather conditions stay favorable the oats shown here should make between 60 and 70 bushels per acre. It's a 10-acre field, which two years ago produced 125-bushel corn. Akers, a world war 2 veteran, was host for one of the stops scheduled on the conservation tour for farmers and business and professional men staged today by the Monroe county USDA council. On the Akers farm visitors saw a demonstration of weed-spraying in a corn field.

June 24, 1948

Study Contouring, Weed Control on Today's Tour

See Conservation Results on Farms In 2 Townships.

Monroe county farmers and business and professional men today were studying conservation where it really counts—on the acres where grain and forage crops are produced.

A tour sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture Council moved out of Albia during the noon hour, headed for farms in Pleasant and Bluff Creek townships.

First scheduled stop was at the farm of Homer Berry, president of the Monroe county Farm Bureau.

Exhibit

Pasture and forage crops are featured in a Soil Conservation Week exhibit at AAA headquarters here.

Samples of such legumes as birdfoot trefoil and grasses like brome, with the seeds from which they originate, are shown.

The display is attracting considerable attention from townspeople as well as farmers. It was arranged by USDA Council Members Howard Willson, Elias Bell, Don Nash and Ether Roberts.

Berry has corn planted on contour, and he left buffer strips in the field to facilitate movement of machinery. He believes his system takes some of the headaches from contour cropping. From there the group was to move to the Roy Wilkin farm to see a plow-constructed terrace.

A new feature for the tour, an annual affair, will be demonstrations of weed control by spraying—in corn on the Raymond Akers farm and on the Martin Van Hilton pasture. Ray McCollum, Monroe county farmer, will conduct the spraying demonstrations.

Soil Conservation Has Its Rewards—

This afternoon a number of Albia businessmen and Monroe county farmers are enjoying themselves on a tour of several conservation projects in the county. These men, all of them vitally interested in conservation farming, are taking this tour to familiarize themselves with some of the work that has been accomplished.

Four years ago this month the Monroe County Soil Conservation district was established. Prior to that time the county agent, Charles Greenlee, was one of those taking the initiative in encouraging the Monroe county farmers in their soils conservation practices.

In 1944 following the arrival here of Harold Anderson, Monroe county farm planner, several planning groups were organized. These groups have continued to grow until today there are more than 20, including several groups formed among the GI farmers.

More than 150 farms in Monroe county have been studied, surveyed, and a farm program has been worked out between the farmer, the farm planner, and approved by the district commissioners. These farms all are observing good conservation practices, contouring, strip cropping, terracing, along with rotation of crops, use of fertilizers, etc.

In so doing these farmers have on the average raised their farm incomes 20 per cent (not including the rise in farm income which has come with rising prices). In so doing these farmers have assured themselves of better farms, and have and are doing their share to preserve this precious soil for others.

Soil conservation has had its rewards, for the individual farmer and for the community.

One interesting fact which has come out of the work the past four years is the knowledge that Monroe county is ideally suited for the raising of dairy or beef cattle. This has been the trend, although it has been gradual. But a study of 87 farm plans indicates that cropland should be decreased by 14 per cent and pasture land increased by the same amount. That's the average on these 87 farms studied and it will in all probability hold true for the entire county.

Remember this and keep watching the figures. Perhaps ten or 20 years from now—we hope sooner—you'll find Monroe county ranking among the top counties in dairy and beef production. It's simply a question of making the best use of the land which we have, and Monroe county farmers in increasing numbers are becoming aware of this fact.

June 24, 1948

Say Pasture Improvement Lags as Farmers Adopt New Methods for Corn, Small Grain

Iowa has approximately four million acres of permanent grassland—the bulk of it in southern Iowa—and while modern advancements in corn and small grain production have added materially to the state's wealth, production from grass acres has steadily declined.

Approximately 200 Iowa war veterans learned that fact—and what to do about it—during a field day held for them at the Albia Pasture Farm Friday.

The GI's who attended are all enrolled in on-farm agricultural training courses under the GI bill of rights in counties of this section. Heavy rains and floods cut participation in the program from advance estimates of 500 or more.

The field day faculty included Maurice L. Peterson, agronomist in charge of experiments at the pasture farm, and Horace Cheney and Marvin Anderson, agronomists for the agricultural extension service, Iowa State college, Ames.

The students covered pasture renovation methods; grazing experiments on birdsfoot trefoil; bromegrass and alfalfa; strains, varieties and mixtures of grasses and legumes; rotation and fertilizer experiments; and grazing results from renovated pastures.

Agronomists listed these five reasons why many pastures are unproductive:

1. **OVERGRAZING** — Keeping livestock on pasture and allowing them to graze too closely over too

Trip

Monroe county GI's enrolled in the agricultural on-farm training course will go to Bethany, Mo., Thursday to study soil conservation practices used on a watershed basis in that area.

Howard Wilson, in charge of the local school, said about 50 students will make the trip.

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long a season.

2. **WEED INFESTATION**—Caused largely by overgrazing.

3. **LOW FERTILITY** — Indicates need for nitrogen and phosphorus.

4. **ACID SOILS** — Most permanent pastures need lime.

5. **EROSION** — Many Pastures are badly gullied.

Pasture improvement, they told the GI's, is not difficult. Its objective is to replace weeds and some of the grass with clover or other legumes which provide nitrogen. They listed these pasture improvement steps:

1. Apply enough lime this summer or fall to correct soil acidity.

2. Late this fall (mid-November) shallow plow the pasture ON THE CONTOUR. Plow only three to four inches deep and leave rough over

—Continued on Page 3

GI Field Day--

—Continued from Page 1

the winter.

3. On badly gullied pastures, or those pastures with very little grass—use a disk in place of the plow but do the job on the contour.

4. Apply 200 to 300 pounds of 20 per cent superphosphate or its equivalent as the first job in the spring.

5. Prepare a firm seedbed by disking, harrowing and rolling.

6. Seed a grass-legume mixture along with about three bushels of oats per acre. The following seed mixture per acre is suggested—bromegrass, six pounds; sweet clover, five pounds; red clover, three pounds; alsike clover, two pounds; oats, three bushels. (From one-half to one pound of ladino clover may be added on poorly drained soils.) (From three to four pounds per acre of birdsfoot trefoil can be used to replace the sweet clover.) (The oats and bromegrass can be left out if the seedbed is prepared by disking rather than plowing.)

7. Graze off the oats after it has reached a height of eight to 10 inches. Some fall grazing is possible if the new seeding makes a good growth.

Birdsfoot trefoil, a comparatively new Iowa pasture plant, drew considerable attention during the tour of seedings at the farm.

A native of Europe, birdsfoot trefoil was reported to have grown in the streets of New York City as early as 1875, where it apparently was started from ballast deposits used as fill on unpaved streets. Plantings in Iowa for studying its possibilities as a pasture plant were first made about six years ago.

Although nearly all experimental seedings have shown that trefoil is a valuable pasture plant, there have not been adequate supplies of seed for use by farmers. However, rather large importations of foreign trefoil seed were made into Iowa in the winter of 1946-47. The Agricultural Experiment Station at Ames has made efforts to trace the source of these importations to determine its possible adaptation. Origin of shipments was from Italy, but it is not known whether or not the seed was produced in that country. Plantings are being made in southern Iowa.

The narrow-leaf strain is inferior in yield and winter hardiness.

For satisfactory production, trefoil should always be inoculated

Attend Soils Parley In Lucas County

Soil District Commissioners Sterling Martin and James Foster, Farm Planner Harold Anderson and District Conservationist Sylvan Runkel of Ottumwa went from here Tuesday to a soils conference in Chariton.

The Chariton meeting was arranged by the Iowa Soils Conservation committee for representatives from Madison, Warren, Marion, Monroe, Wayne, Davis, Appanoose, Decatur, Lucas, Clarke, and Mahaska counties.

June 24, 1948

With the proper strain of bacteria, Trefoil should be seeded in mixtures with other legumes such as red or alsike clover.

Best results in establishment are obtained when trefoil does not have severe competition with established grass.

Establishment of trefoil seedlings on poor soils probably will be favored by a light application of nitrogen fertilizer.

Trefoil responds to lime on acid soils with increased yield and vigor of growth.

Trefoil responds to phosphate fertilizer on soils low in fertilizer in studies in New York state. Iowa trials, while limited, tend to show a similar response.

The following seeding mixture is recommended for use in permanent pastures following the preparation of a seedbed by disking or plowing: Birdsfoot trefoil, three to four pounds per acre; red clover, three pounds per acre; alsike clover, two pounds per acre; oats (if plowed), three bushels per acre.

The agronomists also reported that during the past seasons of favorable moisture, ladino clover has shown much promise as a pasture legume. Although its performance is most outstanding in northeastern Iowa, the growth in southern Iowa has been quite satisfactory. They listed the following as points to be considered in using ladino clover:

1. Ladino clover should be seeded in mixtures with other grasses and legumes. From one-half to one pound of seed per acre is sufficient when added to a pasture mixture including red and/or alsike clover and timothy, bromegrass, or orch-

ard grass.

2. Because it is shallow rooted, ladino grows well on flat, poorly drained soils or soils well supplied with moisture. It does not do well on very wet soils or areas where water stands for periods of a week or more.

3. High fertility is necessary for success. On soils naturally low in fertility, use commercial fertilizer (9-30-0) or manure prior to seeding.

4. Ladino should be seeded in early spring. A companion crop of oats seeded at moderate rates may be used. Fall seeding are more hazardous than spring seedings.

5. Ladino clover requires careful management. Close continuous grazing delays recovery, reduces yields, and may result in killing from heat in summer or winter-killing. Best results are obtained from grazing ladino to a height of 4 to five inches and then removing livestock until the clover has again made a good growth.

Important Relationships Between Land, Plants and Animals, Biologist Says

By Wallace L. Anderson
Chief, Regional Biology Division
Soil Conservation Service

Soil conservation not only benefits wildlife, but wildlife makes a real contribution to soil conservation and better farm living because there are important relationships between land, plants, and animals. When we say "wildlife" we mean all kinds of wild plants and animals. We cannot do a good job of managing land without considering its relationship to both plants and animals.

Plants are one of the chief tools that farmers use to hold soil in place and prevent erosion. Legumes and grasses are among the most important plants for the job. Yet most legumes must be pollinated by insects if they are to produce seed. Thus, it is just common sense to manage the land to maintain as high a population of wild pollinating insects as is practical.

Also, it's good business to manage land to keep as high a population as possible of insects, birds, and animals that feed on crop pests. By so doing, we not only maintain higher crop yields but get better erosion protection as well. And we all enjoy seeing and hearing wild creatures, especially the colorful, musical insect-eating songbirds.

Modern mechanized farming leaves more time for leisure; and therefore, many farmers like to manage their land to produce as many game birds and animals as they can to provide recreation and a little variety at the dinner table. And if a farm pond is needed to supply livestock water, spray water or fire protection, it can be made to produce enough fish to be really important in the family diet.

Fur-bearing animals like muskrats, minks, skunks and raccoons have provided many a farm boy with spending money and on some farms are a real source of income for the farmer. It is certainly wise to manage land to produce as many of these animals as we can.

Of all these desirable values of wildlife, probably the most important is that good land management results in the best possible balance between useful kinds of wildlife and harmful kinds. It's a fact that over-cropped, badly eroded farmers have a much higher population of harmful kinds of wildlife than farms that are managed the conservation way.

Of course, farming is a business and no farmer can afford to use income-producing land just to produce wildlife. Happily, that isn't necessary. On cropland, rotations with more meadow crops and practices like strip cropping, grass waterways and terrace outlets all help to produce more wildlife. Pasture improvement with adapted legumes and grasses also furnishes more food and cover for useful wildlife. And good woodland management—protecting the woods from fire and grazing, selective cutting, and maintaining a good shrub border around the edge—really pays off in more and better wildlife.

Very few people have ever thought of such a thing as wildlife on farms, but actually there are some kinds of land whose chief crop is useful wildlife. Here are a few examples: fence rows, small odd areas that are so badly eroded



Wallace L. Anderson

or are so located that they cannot economically be used for cropland, pasture land or woodland, marshes, small areas around farm ponds, shelterbelts and windbreaks, and streambanks and some drainage ditch banks. Such lands, when properly managed, can be most important in producing useful wildlife.

Wildlife has three essential requirements for existence: food, cover, and water. And because most kinds of farm wildlife are small and do not travel far, all three requirements must be found close together. Thus, to produce an abundance of useful wildlife, we need places where food, cover, and water are close together and well distributed over the farm. That is exactly what results on most farms when a farm conservation plan which makes the best use of every acre and of applicable soil and water conservation practices is applied on the land.

Your local soil conservationist is the man who can help you make your farm conservation plan bring you the benefits of useful wildlife. If you plan for wildlife on your farm you'll not only have a better soil conservation plan but you'll get better yields, have fewer pests, and get more enjoyment from farm life.

Puts Spotlight on Woodland Crops

Woodland crops are not being given enough attention in soil conservation planning in Iowa, says Richard Campbell, Iowa forester.

He estimates that there are about 650,000 acres of land, now in crops, which probably would be in better land-use if put into timber production. Some of this land has been in crops but now is idle, depleted, growing up in weeds and washing away. Iowa always should have about three million acres of land in trees, Campbell thinks.

Woodlands are one of nature's best protective coverings to prevent soil and water loss. Trees will grow on much of the land that has become so eroded and depleted that other crops won't grow.

Some of the areas that should be planted to trees are gullies, streams, banks, depleted fields, and bottom lands subject to severe ov-

erflow. Campbell points out that most of the remaining timber in the state is on land that can't grow good grain crops and that this timber should not be cut out.

Tree plantings prevent erosion, conserve water, protect watersheds and lessen the damage of floods by reducing runoff.

Campbell also points out that Iowa woodlands are profitable. The estimated value of forest products harvested from timbered areas in the state in 1946 was \$18 million. This included over 90 million board feet of lumber and ties, 4 million board feet of specialty logs, fuel wood, fence posts, mine timbers and others.

However, he points out that farm wooded areas must be managed correctly if they are to be of maximum value to a soil conservation program and at the same time be profitable. One thing that Iowa farmers generally do to lessen the value of woodlands is to use them for pasture areas. The farm woods make poor pasture and pasturing soon makes a poor woodlot.

Experiments at the Upper Mississippi Valley Erosion Experiment Station at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, showed that grazed woodlands lose more soil and water than woodlands not in pasture. On a grazed woodlot with a slope of 15 to 28 percent, 56 times as much water ran off as where the stock was kept out. Soil loss was 112 times as great on the grazed woodlot with a slope of 25 to 30 percent as on an ungrazed woodlot with the same slope.

Without a sound agriculture any nation fails. Support Soil Conservation.

Rolling land under continuous corn will lose about one-third inch of topsoil per year, while the same land farmed under a good rotation will lose only half as much.

Promote Iowa's Soil Conservation Week, June 20 through 27. Let's turn CONVERSATION into CONSERVATION.

Cultivation Lowers Organic Matter

It has long been known that cultivating land affects the tilth and structure of the soil. The results of a recent survey made by Marvin Anderson, Iowa State college agronomist, tell part of the story. They show that cultivating land reduces the amount of organic matter present and causes the soil to become packed.

By comparing virgin soil with land that has been under cultivation for from 50 to 100 years, in various parts of Iowa, these general conclusions were drawn:

Cultivation has materially reduced the organic matter in soils. This is due in part to the fact that the amount of grass roots and plant residues have been cut by growing high yielding intertilled crops. The soil then becomes more compact, with less air space and a lower water-holding capacity.

Anderson's studies show that a cubic foot of virgin Edina soil (a level upland loess) from southern Iowa weighs 65 pounds. But a cubic foot of the Edina soil, which has been under cultivation for several decades, has increased in weight to 85 pounds.

While it isn't considered possible to keep the high organic matter content in cultivated soils that existed under virgin conditions, especially on prairie soils, it is possible to maintain good structure and physical conditions to produce high crop yields. The best single thing to do, soils men say, is to include grasses and legumes.

June 24, 1948

July 26, 1948

Will Award Cash Prizes to Plowing Champions

1948 Monroe County Plowing Contest Official Entry Blank

Name _____

Address _____
Route _____ P. O. _____ Twp. _____

Make of Tractor _____ Make of Plow _____

No. Bottoms _____ Size of Plow _____

Contest Entered: LEVEL _____ CONTOUR _____

An entry fee of \$5.00 for contest must be submitted with official entry. This deposit will be returned when land is completed in contest but will be forfeited if contestant fails to complete land.

It is understood by signer of this blank that the contest sponsors, land owner, officials and judges are not liable in event of accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage.

Entry applications will be filed in order of receipt and contest eligibility will be determined primarily on that basis. Sponsors reserve the right to allocate contestants by townships.

Date _____

Signed _____

For Minor _____

(Parents or Guardian)

Must Submit Entry Blanks By Aug. 11

Ten Contestants To Be Allowed In Each Class.

Preparations for Monroe county's 1948 Plowing Championship Contests were launched Thursday night with a meeting for representatives of cooperating organizations and agencies in Farm Bureau headquarters here.

The level and contour plowing matches will be staged Aug. 25, and the deadline for entries has been set as Aug. 11.

Cash prizes totaling \$310, plus opportunity for advancement into district and state competition, are offered to title contenders.

An official entry blank appears in today's News. Entry blanks may also be obtained at Farm Bureau headquarters and at the SCS office. When completed they should be mailed or delivered to the Farm Bureau here before Aug. 11.

State Secretary of Agriculture Harry Linn has been invited to deliver an address at the match site. An invitation to the contests has also been sent to Herb Plambeck, Des Moines radio station farm service director.

Plowing contests were revived in Monroe county last year by the Rural Youth organization. It has the cooperation of the Farm Bureau, all United States Department of Agriculture agencies, and the Albia Chamber of Commerce.

Present plans call for limitation of entries to 10 in each contest. That means those who file first will be most certain of land assignments. Last year's contenders have received entry blanks by mail.

The general committee on arrangements for the 1948 contests is headed by James Foster and Everett Long. Other members are Tom Dougherty, Elias Bell, John Landsperger, Howard Willson, Phil O'Brien, H. M. Berry, S. T. Runkle, Ed Agans, L. M. Reid and John Andersen. This committee will select judges and other officials, and will supervise all activities.

The finance committee, which will raise money for the program and direct its distribution, is headed by Lyle Briggs and J. E. King. They'll be assisted by Frank Chelvar, Sterling Martin and Robert Lott.

The publicity committee will handle the necessary promotion. Its members are Gayle Bennett, Gerald Young, L. F. Bisby, C. B. Baldwin, Robert Fontinel, Edward Chidester, Rex Manley, L. M. Reid and Duke Norberg.

Members of the program committee are James Foster, chairman, and Boyd Smart, Herbert Bettis and Everett Long. This group will determine the order of events and arrange for a master of ceremonies and speakers.

Howard Willson heads the grounds committee, and other members are Lloyd Goode, John Marlin, John Goodwin, Arnold Anderson, Paul DeVos and Roy Brooke. Traffic, parking, policing and similar details come under its direction.

Busy now selecting a site for the program is the location and technical committee, headed by Harold Anderson. Other members are John Botts, George Gutmann, Tom Dougherty and Donald Nash. This group will lay out the level and contour lands and arrange soil conservation demonstrations.

In charge of concessions and food are Alton Wilcox, chairman, Mrs. C. R. Sandifer, Mrs. Clint Swartz, Mrs. Roy Himelick, Mrs. H. M. Berry and Mrs. Denzil Paton. They'll also handle any commercial exhibits at the contest site.

It is anticipated that this year's program will be presented under more favorable conditions than that of a year ago, when continued drouth made going extremely difficult for the contenders.

Winner of the level plowing championship at the Dr. Roy Pearson farm near Blakesburg last year was George McCombs. The honor crown went to Bill Wincup. Other contestants were Tom Dougherty, Clifford Davis, George Gergely, Lloyd Clark, Glen Wilcox, W. D. Wilson, Paul Shelquist, George Leffler, Lloyd Goode and Robert Goode.

Fish, Fire Protection Among Benefits from Farm Ponds

Has More Uses Than Storage of Water For Livestock

SCS Engineer Has Suggestions for Construction.

By Edwin Freyburger

Chief, Regional Engineering Division, Soil Conservation Service

The farm pond is used primarily to store and provide water for livestock in areas where other

sources of water may be insufficient or may fail during periods of drought.

While this original purpose of the farm pond still accounts for a large per cent of the ponds now being constructed, it is by no means the only benefit that can be derived from a properly located and well-constructed farm pond. In addition to furnishing stock water there are other considerations involving wildlife, recreation, fire protection, and orchard spraying, directly associated with farm ponds.

The stocking of ponds with game fish for both food and the sport of fishing has been an accepted practice and long encouraged by conservation agencies. Next to furnishing stock water, the raising of



Edwin Freyburger

Not Necessary to Mow All Meadows for Hay, They Can Be Grazed Profitably--Gardner

By Harry H. Gardner

Chief, Regional Agronomy Division, Soil Conservation Service

Farmers in soil conservation districts are learning that land and the farm organization are very closely related. The production of crops depends on the capability of the land. The production of livestock and livestock products depends on the crops grown for feed.

Corn should be grown on land capable of producing profitable yields. Small grain can follow the corn. On the best land a grass-legume meadow should make up at least one-fourth of the crop rotation and be extended to 50 percent on more or less fertile land.

Land that will not produce profitable yields of corn will grow legumes and grasses for hay or pasture. Their yield will be in proportion to the fertility of the land.

Proper land use, that is, the growing of the crops best suited to soil conditions, is the first consideration. Proper utilization of the crops produced is the next consideration.

The first step in making a complete farm conservation plan is determining the amount and location of cropland. Then the rotation is decided upon, the number of acres of corn, grain, and meadow are considered, and an estimate is made of the production each year. The yields per acre can be expected to increase because of selection of land adapted to the production of each crop, the use of legumes in the rotation, and soil treatments.

Corn and grain crops can be harvested as usual but some changes may need to be made for utilizing meadows and pastures. It is not necessary to mow all meadows for hay. They can be grazed profitably.

At the Experiment Station at Clarinda, Iowa, steers on pasture made 305 pounds of beef per acre of alfalfa-brome grass meadow. At the Missouri Experiment Station, 60 percent of the gains made by steers was obtained on wheat-Lespedeza



Harry H. Gardner

pasture. At the Michigan Experiment Station lambs gained 392 pounds per acre on alfalfa.

Hogs and poultry on pasture require much less concentrates, according to experiments conducted by the Missouri, Ohio, Illinois and other Experiment Stations.

The problem after the proper land use has been decided is farm organization.

How many and what type of livestock can be produced on the feed available?

What is the pasture program? When and how much grazing can be obtained from permanent pasture? From meadow pasture?

Help on these and many other farm organization problems can be obtained through the soil conservation districts and the assistance given by technicians of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

fish is probably the next important phase of the farm pond. After a day's work, an evening of twilight fishing on the farm pond has often afforded moments of relaxation to members of the farmer's family and friends. Added to the thrill of playing a black bass through the water of the pond and the final triumph of a catch, there comes that aroma of the frying pan and a meal on an unusual product raised right there on the farm.

The farm pond not only affords good fishing but also provides an environment for wild duck, many of which have been taken from blinds located along the pond shore. Occasionally wild geese will make use of such facilities. Muskrats, cottontail rabbits and other four-footed game will inhabit the shoreline and adjacent area if adequate attention has been given to providing the necessary food and cover plantings.

In connection with developing adequate wildlife cover along the shore, desirable picnic areas can be developed if proper thought is given to the pond location and its management after it has been built. Farmers have built fire places, shelters, tables and other improvements around their ponds. Once such improvements are made, they afford summer gathering places for small neighborhood picnics, outing facilities for boy and

girl scout troops, 4-H Clubs, church gatherings, etc. Swimming facilities are provided during the warm summer months while in winter, where skating is a sport, the necessary ice is at hand.

Fire among the farm buildings is always a threat and feared from one source to another by the farmer. Fire fighting equipment is very often available or can be provided but an adequate source of water supply is too often lacking. If an adequate site is available within reasonable distance from the farm buildings the construction of a good farm pond may be the means of saving the buildings from a fire started by lightning, defective electrical wiring, children playing with matches or some other source.

In the fruit raising areas, farm ponds have been used to provide a source of water for orchard spraying purposes. Conveniently located and equipped with the necessary appurtenances, such ponds can be a cheap and efficient means of furnishing spray water.

Another use to which the farm pond may be put is that of furnishing irrigation water to the farm garden. The average farm pond is too small to be of any consequence in irrigating large tracts, but water supplied from a pond can be used to good advantage in getting the most out of the small farm garden.

Farm ponds are not difficult to build and maintain provided a few fundamental rules are observed and followed. By and large, the tendency in building farm ponds is to locate them below watersheds which will require large and expensive spillways without which they soon would be washed out by excessive storm water. Ordinarily the earth dam behind which the pond is formed should not have more than thirty acres of grass or timber covered land in the watershed from which it receives runoff water.

Grass or timber cover is very necessary, or adequate erosion control practices used if silting of the pond is to be prevented. The average size of the successful farm pond watershed will probably run somewhere between five and twenty acres.

The pond should be located in an area having impervious soils. Too often ponds have been built by farmers only to find they would not hold water. Areas having soils of heavy clay, clay loam, or clay mixtures provide the best pond sites and materials for constructing the dam. If there are sand and gravel, or limestone rock layers in the vicinity of a proposed pond, there is more than an even chance that the pond will be a failure due to the loss of water through the pervious soil conditions.

All farm ponds should have adequate

spillways to take care of overflow when the pond is full. The more desirable spillways are those composed of a combination of six to ten-inch pipe and a grassed waterway whereby runoff will first pass through the pipe laid under the dam and then over the grassed waterway when the capacity of the pipe is exceeded. One has only to note the many washed out ponds throughout the countryside not having adequate spillway facilities to realize the importance of the spillway feature.

The earth dam should have flat slopes of two feet of horizontal distance for each foot of rise on the downstream side. On the water side of the dam the slopes should be three feet of horizontal distance for each foot of rise. The flatter slope is necessary on the water side because of the tendency of the earth dam material to slough down under water if steeper slopes are used. The top width of the dam should not be less than eight feet. The farm pond should never be less than seven feet deep over at least one third of the ponded area. The site upon which the dam is placed should be cleared of all soil, brush, rubbish, etc., before construction of the earth dam and appurtenances are started in order to provide a good tight control between the earth dam and original ground.

When the pond has been completed, livestock should be fenced out since the earth dam and shoreline developments would obviously be damaged from cattle trampling. A stock tank below the dam will furnish them clear water.

The individual who desires to build a good farm pond is urged to solicit the advice and recommendations of a technician from some agency familiar with the design and construction of satisfactory farm ponds.

Protecting fence rows, roadsides and other idle soil with a cover of stubble and plant residues from previously harvested crops not only reduces erosion, it gives game birds and animals a place to hide, feed and rest.

June 21, 1948

June 21, 1948

Tour Thursday Will Highlight Conservation Week

Will Inspect Contouring, Terracing

Demonstrations Of Weed Spray Also Planned.

A tour of farms in Bluff Creek and Pleasant townships Thursday will highlight Monroe county's observance of Soil Conservation Week.

The tour, arranged by the United States Department of Agriculture Council, is for all Monroe county farmers and business and professional men. Its purpose is to exhibit the achievements of dirt farmers in good soils management.

Farms to be visited are those of Homer Berry, Roy Wilkin, Raymond Akers and Martin Van Hilton.

Tour participants are to meet at 12:30 p.m. on the north side of the square. Some transportation will be available for persons who do not drive their own cars.

Contouring will be inspected at the Berry farm. In contouring a 25-acre corn field, Berry left buffer strips to facilitate movement of machinery through the field. He thinks they eliminate many of the inconveniences of contour farming.

On the Wilkin farm visitors will see a plow-constructed terrace.

Akers has a complete soil conservation district farm layout, and his farm will be the scene of a weed-spraying demonstration. Ray McCollum, Monroe county farmer who operates a commercial weed

spraying outfit, will attack weeds in Akers' corn crop.

Use of spray against weeds and brush on pasture areas will be demonstrated at the Van Hilton place.

A similar tour last year attracted a large number of Albia men as well as farmers. Agricultural leaders consider the tour method the best way to tell the conservation story.

June 21, 1948

A Little Bird Could Tell a Soil Conservation Story

By Duke Norberg

A little bird could tell Monroe county farmers and landowners a thing or two about soil conservation.

From a bird's viewpoint conservation practices—or the lack of them—are as obvious as Henry Wallace's dislike of the Truman foreign policy.

With Art Stagner piloting the Albia Airways cruiser, Union-Republican Editor Bob Larson and I made an aerial tour of Monroe county and the Des Moines River valley between Eddyville and Ottumwa Friday afternoon.

Monroe county, after more than five inches of June rainfall, was fully on the soggy side. While Cedar and other creeks had again found their legitimate banks, large acreages of bottom croplands

were still covered with water. Pools also dotted flat country untouched by the sweep of high creek waters.

Heavier than the high water damage was the apparent soil and crop erosion on hilly cropland. Scores of hills were gashed by two or more big gullies which in turn sent out myriads of tentacles to pull topsoil from its moorings. It appeared that considerable replanting would be necessary on many hills.

Welcome relief from the erosion scene was offered by the contoured fields, particularly those with bright, green waterways. No doubt some contour lines were broken by the slashing rains, but the breaks were not visible from the air. The squirming, snake-like path of gullies didn't mar

these fields.

Stagner circled low over Eddyville. It was a heart-breaking scene. A rowboat was moving up one of the main streets. A big share of the town was under water, and the road leading to high ground north of the town was lined with the cars of Eddyville residents. Many more were parked in the school yard. In the east part of town, though, there was a car with only its top still visible.

Water was lapping at second floor windows of some homes. Garages and other outbuildings were giving way under the heavy Des Moines River pressure.

Under the bright early-afternoon sun the river was brown, laced with silt and debris. All the way to Ottumwa it was a tremen-

dous lake with islands of trees. On one farm the water was inching upward on a sloping field, grasping at the few remaining rows of little corn.

In Ottumwa's Central addition the scene was similar to that offered by Eddyville. Stagner circled over South Ottumwa and the business district. There was much activity through the areas threatened, but not yet touched, by the rising waters.

We followed highway 34 back to Albia. The plane gained altitude, and over Albia it appeared the city was almost entirely surrounded by floods. To the south the Chariton River had spilled out over a wide area, and to the north and east the Des Moines still boiled along its destructive path.

Young Pleasant Township Farmer Following Conservation Path Carved by His Dad

Raymond Akers, young Pleasant township farmer, is following a conservation path carved by his dad—Harold.

Young Akers' farm is included on the route of the Thursday tour which will be a feature of Monroe county's Soil Conservation Week observance.

Visitors will find it a complete conservation picture. And they'll see there a demonstration of the use of spray on weeds in a corn field. Akers would have been plowing those weeds into oblivion last week end had he not promised the USDA Council to save them for the tour program. Contour and strip cropping are practiced by Akers. He has a pond stocked with fish by the Iowa Conservation commission. He has accomplished considerable pasture renovation, and he's turning the improved pasture into milk through some fine-looking Jersey cows.

The farm covers 120 acres. There are seventy-eight acres of cropland, 32 acres of permanent pasture and 10 acres of rotation pasture.

The entire farm has been limed twice in the past four years. It also has had phosphate treatment twice in that time.

Raymond's dad started a conservation on the farm long before organization of the Monroe county soil district. As soon as the district was formed he put it into a planning group and adopted a complete farm plan, built in cooperation with Harold Anderson, SCS farm planner for the district.

Harold Akers, a world war I veteran, managed the place while Raymond was busy in world war 2. Now he serves simply in the capacity of consultant and advisor, and operates his own farm in Wapello county. "The achievements and the work are Raymond's," he commented while visiting the farm Friday to help with haying. He was driving the tractor which was pulling hay from the rack into the barn loft—a job usually taken over by farm youngsters. He agreed that most farmers begin and end their active careers with that position.

Father and son see eye to eye on soil conservation practices. They like the idea of maintaining and building the land for effective year-after-year utilization. And they like resulting increased yields.

A 10-acre plot just below the Akers home, which had been limed and phosphated, produced 125 bushels of corn per acre two years ago. Now it carries oats—a nurse crop for a pasture being, and the oats promise between 60 and 70 bushels per acre. They stand close to six feet in height in some places, and are well developed.

Strip cropping includes corn,

alfalfa, wheat and meadow. The corn looks good, the wheat compares favorably with the oats.

Raymond Akers is a student in the agricultural school operated here for war veterans who operate their own farms.

The Perfect Reward . . .

. . . to your skill as a progressive, soil conserving farmer is the return in increased yields, saved soil and water.

CONTOURING

BOOSTS YIELDS—

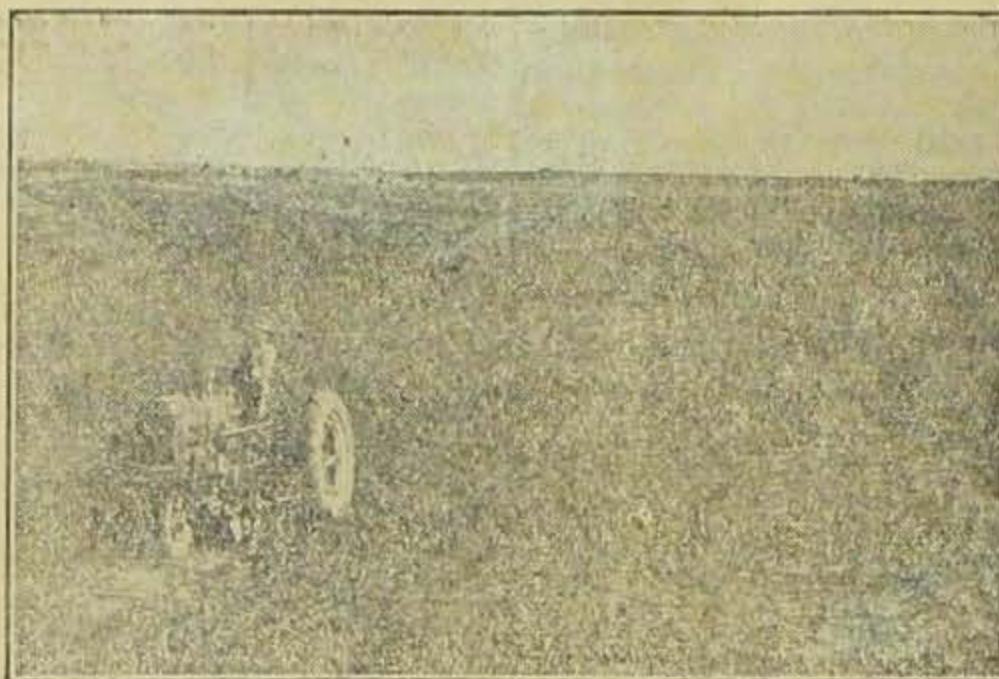
Corn — 7 bu. per acre.

Oats — 5 bu. per acre.

SAVES—

10% in Fuel and Power.

50% in Soil Erosion
Machinery Repair Bills.



IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK IS JUNE 20 - 27

DEVOS IMPLEMENT COMPANY

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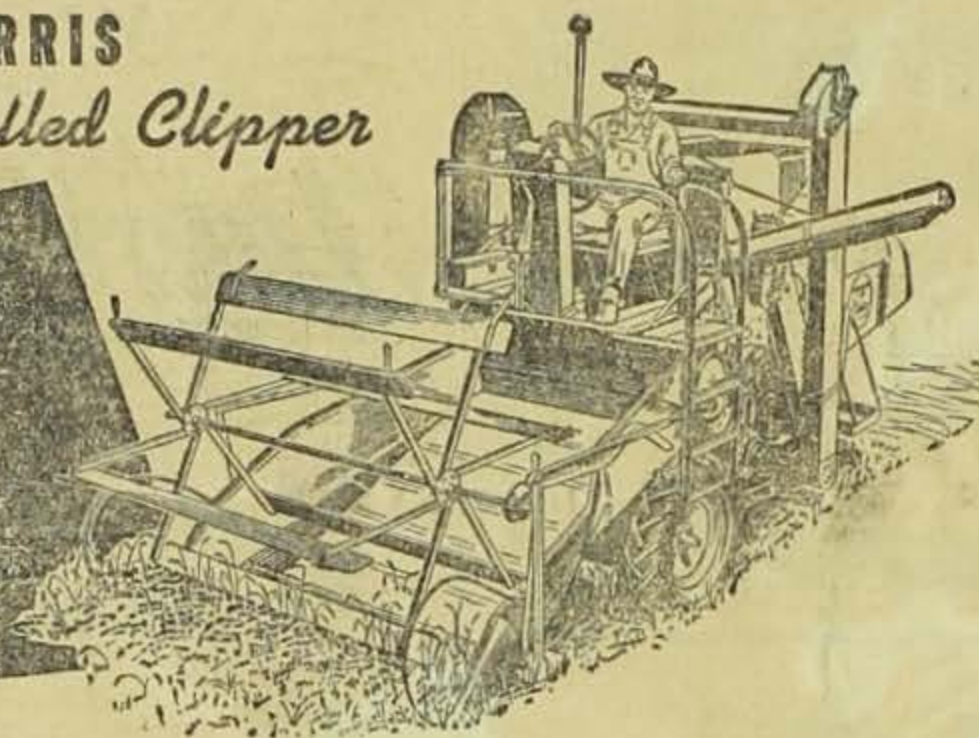
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ACRES PER DAY

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We congratulate the many Monroe county farmers who are pushing progressively ahead with a program for making soil conservation a reality instead of just an idea. Better land means better living for all of us.

Agriculture is moving ahead on other fronts. More and more farmers are turning to Massey-Harris farm equipment because it assures efficient, economical production.

Discuss your farm equipment needs with us.

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CONSERVE WITH MACHINES



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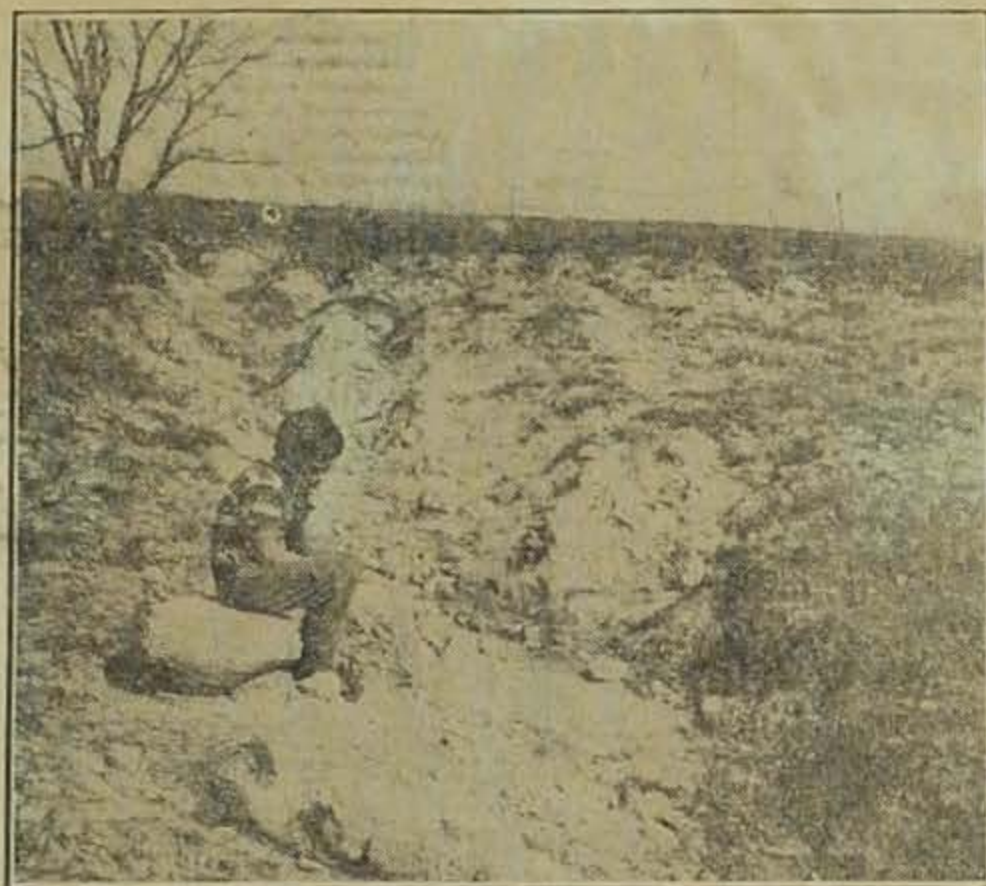
FARM BLOCK MOTORS

Albia, Iowa

June 21, 1948

June 21, 1949

HIS HERITAGE?



Will Your Son Inherit a Farm Such as This — Eroded and Run Down?

He Need Not, Not if YOU Begin Now to Practice Soil Conservation — This Week of June 20-27, and Every Week the Year Around.

CONSULT YOUR LOCAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION, COUNTY EXTENSION AND SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE SPECIALISTS

GOODE SEED AND FEED CO.

BUILD UP YOUR BEEF!



Soil conservation farming enables you to support more steers and other profitable meat animals on your acreage.

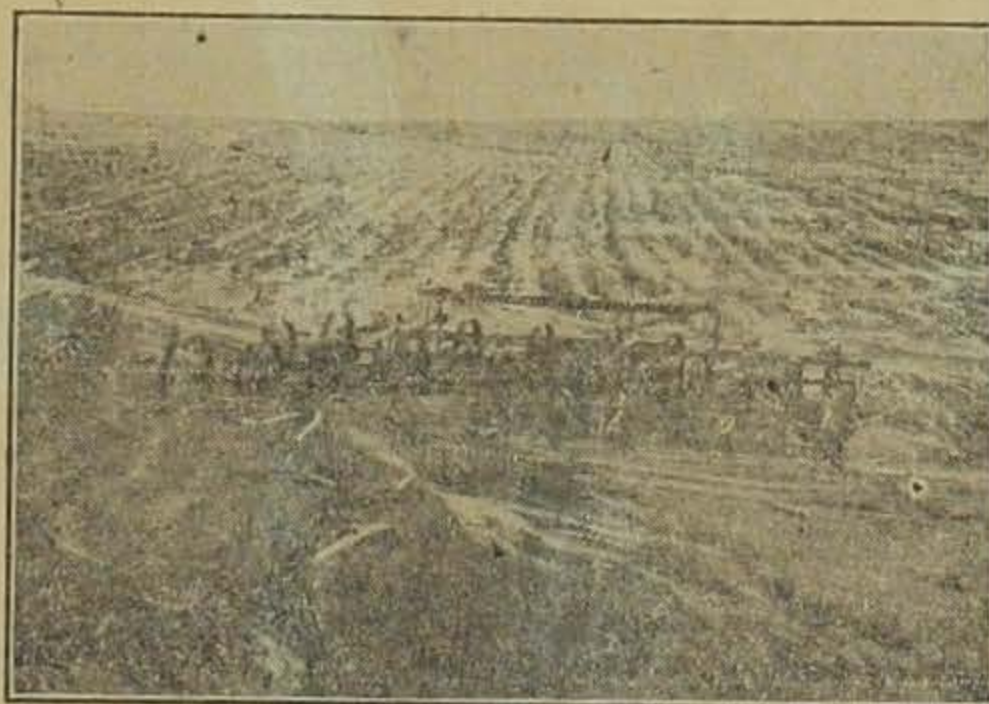
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Albia, Iowa

SILTED OVER



**By
Up-And-Down
Farming**

New machines are being developed every year to aid better conservation farming.

But not even the best machine can do the job unless its operator is skilled in conservation practices.

Your Monroe soil conservation district is the place to get assistance.

**Practice Soil Conservation
SMART FARM EQUIPMENT CO.**

June 21, 1948

STATEMENT
of
PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK
ALBIA, IOWA

RESOURCES . . .

Soil is Iowa's most important natural resource. It took centuries to build that soil resource, but, like bank resources, it can be lost very quickly. To maintain your resource—and ours—practice sound conservation farming.

DIVIDENDS . . .

Our stockholders receive dividends each year on the basis of earnings. Your soil represents invested capital and, like our bank, it pays dividends for efficient management. There is usually one stockholder on the average Iowa farm—the fellow who rides the tractor.

OVERDRAFTS . . .

We can't take money out of the bank all the time without putting some back. The available plant food in your soil is the same. The man who mines the soil by farming row crops on the same land year after year is headed for an overdraft.

CREDITS & DEBITS

Farmers, like bankers, should figure all credits and debits and strike a balance. On agriculture's debit side of the ledger are soil erosion, fertility losses and poor drainage. On the credit side are soil and water conservation practices. Growing legumes in the rotation, contouring sloping land, using manure, commercial fertilizer, and lime for acid soils are some of the ways to keep fertility credits high in your soil bank.

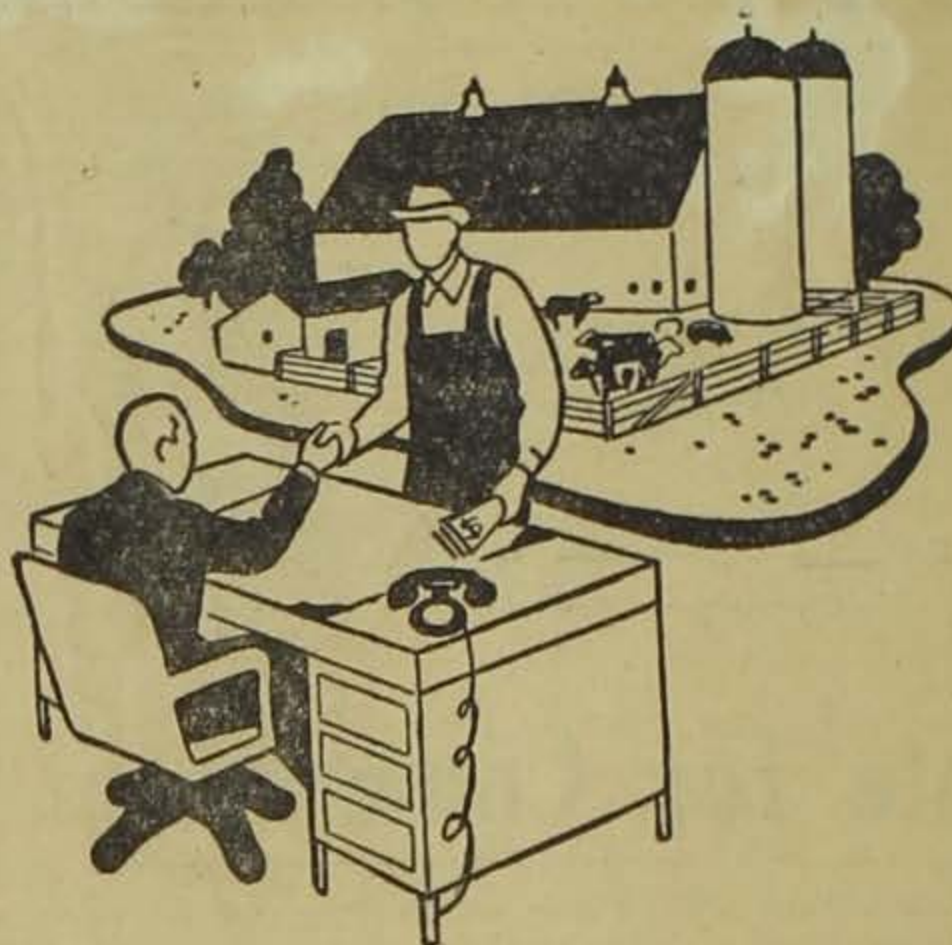
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

IOWA
SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK

June 20 - 27

June 21, 1948

INVEST IN YOUR FARM!



The soundest investment you can make is in your own farm. Study the rules of conservation farming, apply them. Your soil will pay dividends.

FIRST IOWA STATE BANK

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



SAVE FEED AND COIN MONEY!

Sow grass-legumes for quality forage and to hold down and revitalize precious topsoil. Practice soil conservation.

ALBIA RENDERING CO.

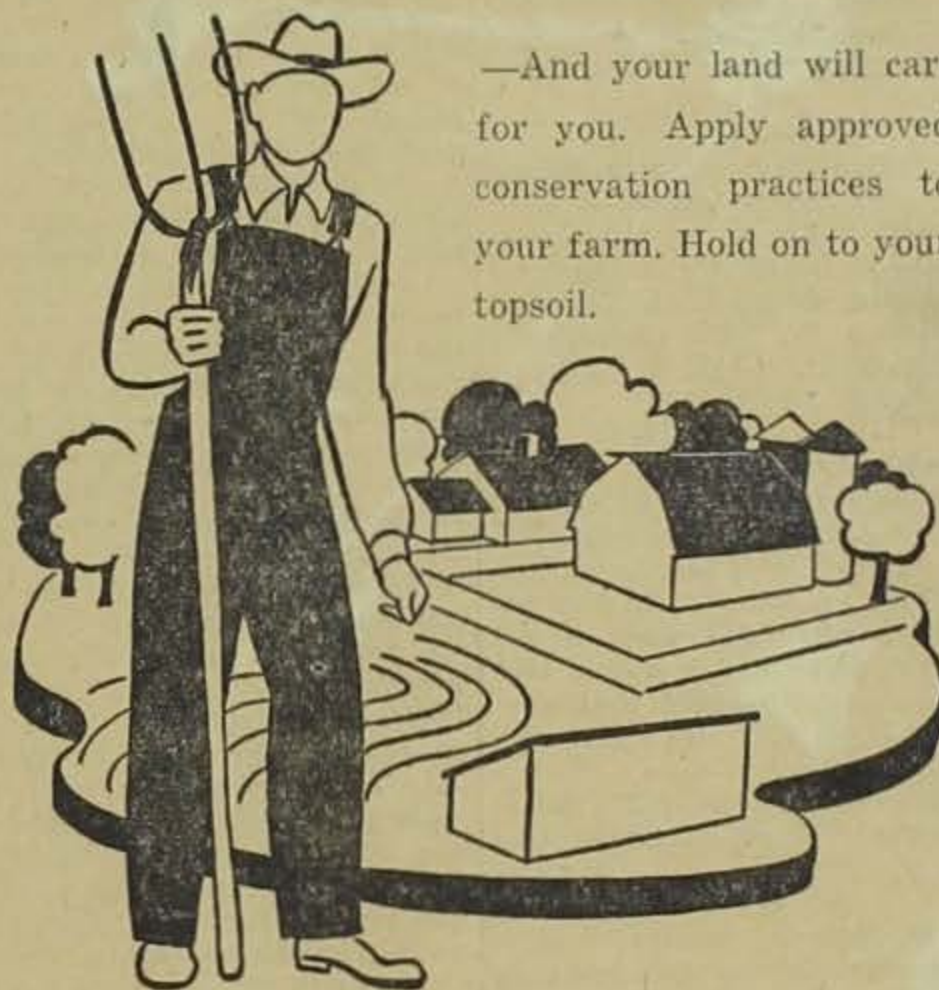


GROW FOR THE MARKET!

The discriminating consumer demands crops of high quality. Such crops can come only from soil which has been well managed.



CARE FOR YOUR LAND!



—And your land will care for you. Apply approved conservation practices to your farm. Hold on to your topsoil.

Specialists in Small Tools

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FARM BLOCK, ALBIA



IOWA



CAN YOUR CROPS!

Good Crops Bring Good Prices!

Your vegetable crops will be bigger, better if you ditch and tile drain land that needs it.

YOUR INTEREST IS OUR INTEREST!

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Phone 1

Albia, Iowa

June 21, 1948



PRODUCE MORE MILK!

Improved pastures bring more feed and greater dairy profits per acre. Grass legumes build up your soil.

See Your Conservation District

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Phone 485

Albia, Iowa

SAVE YOUR WOODLANDS!



Trees anchor subsoil, break the force of the wind and retain moisture. Replant balding areas.

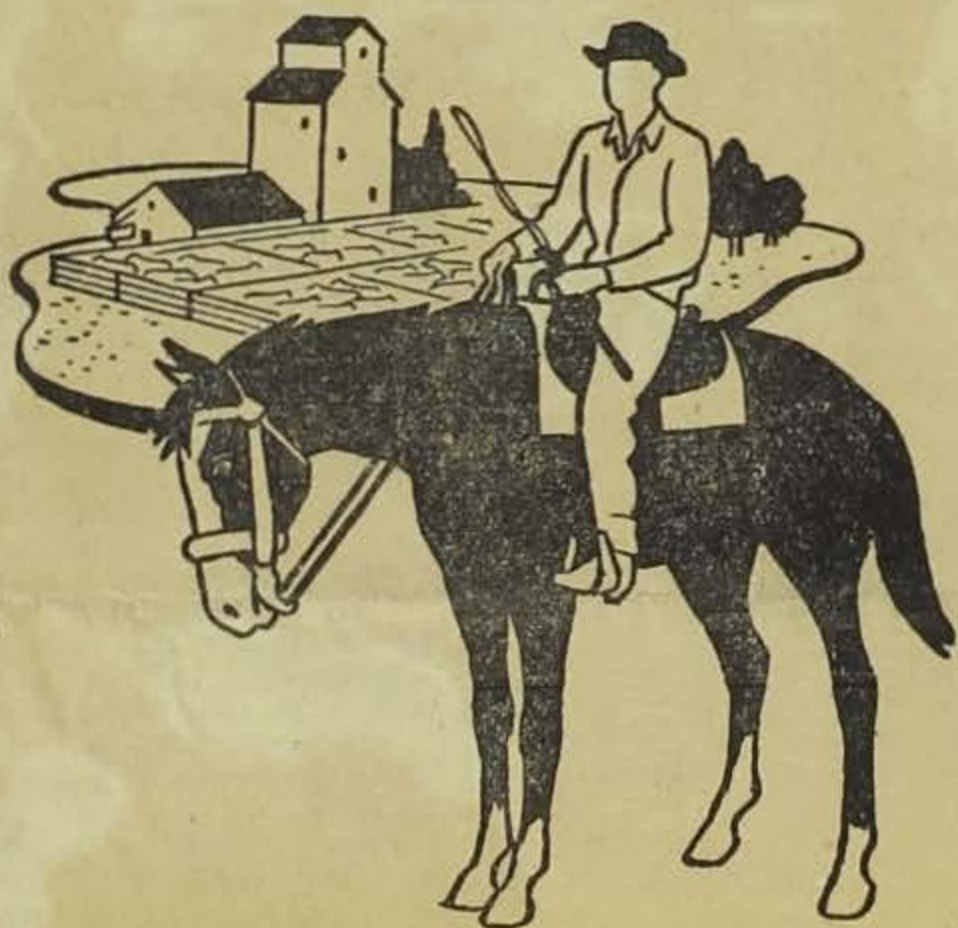


Albia, Iowa

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June 21, 1936

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ALBIA SALES CO.

Rotate Your Crops



For the best harvest pep up tired soil by fertilizing, crop rotation, contour strip farming, other conservation practices.

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TRACTOR DIVISION

Phone 30

Albia, Iowa

Ziemer Quits As Conservation Director

WROTE LETTER QUOTED BY BLUE

Gilbert L. Ziemer, a key figure last fall in Gov. Robert D. Blue's row with the state conservation commission, quit his job Tuesday as state conservation director.

He wants to go into private engineering business, he said. He didn't reveal where. The resignation takes effect Aug. 15. No successor was named immediately for the job, paying \$5,000 a year.

Ziemer said his decision didn't arise from the recent troubles.

The commission said that statement was true and added that the resignation is being accepted "with regret."

Letter Critical.

Ziemer criticized both commission members and some of his associates last autumn in a letter he sent to commission members. Governor Blue used that letter in his conflict with the commission. The letter in one place said:

"Individual commissioners, by assuming administrative duties and by permitting department employees to discuss programs, policies and problems with them individually, complicate the work of the administrative personnel and reduce functional efficiency."

"Items requiring commission attention should be dealt with in the commission meeting. If the commissioners do not trust the director to carry out their ac-



Gilbert L. Ziemer.
Would Enter Engineering.

tions, then it is time to get a new director."

Named Stiles, Others.

Nevertheless, Ziemer's resignation Tuesday was said to have had no connection with the blunt language used in that letter.

The letter in another place linked Bruce Stiles, acting head of the fish and game division at present, with two officials who since have been discharged.

Ziemer wrote that the three "are as alike as peas in a pod and differ only in I. Q. and the technique they employ to achieve their ends."

Kept Position.

Later on the letter said that Stiles and one of the others ought to be retained if the commission were to get its work done.

Stiles, a particular target of the governor, held his job and is

assistant director as well as acting chief of the fish and game section.

No mention of the old difficulties was contained anywhere in Tuesday's actions. The commission expressed "appreciation of the director's 15 years of service to the state and of the constructive leadership he has given to the state conservation program."

Hydraulic Expert.

Ziemer said in his letter of resignation that he long has wanted to go into engineering practice. He is a civil engineer who has specialized in hydraulics. He said he has enjoyed his work with the commission "and it has been of great value."

Blue was beaten June 7 in the Republican primary. If the result of that election had any effect on Ziemer's tenure of office, it was not apparent. Commission officials expressed surprise at the resignation.

Ziemer has been conservation director since 1946 after becoming a commission employee in 1941. He was a civilian conservation official for several years earlier on Iowa state projects.

The commission Tuesday began interviewing candidates for permanent appointment as chief of the fish and game division. The job pays \$3,900 a year.

Farmstead Planning Gets Study Nov. 1

"Farmstead Planning and Improvement" will be discussed Friday during a meeting scheduled at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. John Conway in Jackson township.

In charge of the meeting, which will open at 1:30 and close at 3 p.m., will be Miss Margherita Tarr, landscape architect from Iowa State college, Ames.

Miss Tarr will tell what to consider in making changes in the farmstead and how to plan for the changes to be made now in relation to existing conditions and to be made in the future. Extension Director Lloyd Reid said. This will include the location of buildings, drives, lanes, walks and plantings.

All interested farm men and women are invited to take part in the discussion and present individual landscaping and improvement problems, Reid said.

See How Theories Go Into Use on Land

The approximately 75 school teachers enrolled in the Drake Community College conservation course here last week saw how the theories of proper land management are put into practice by farmers.

Harold Anderson, Soil Conservation Service farm planner, appeared before the class and showed pictures of conservation projects put into operation by Monroe county farmers.

The college class meets again tonight. Miss Ellen Hartnett of the Drake faculty is instructor.



PRODUCE MORE MILK!

Improved pastures bring more feed and greater dairy profits per acre. Grass legumes build up your soil.
See Your Conservation District

HARDINGER DAIRY

Phone 485

Albia, Iowa

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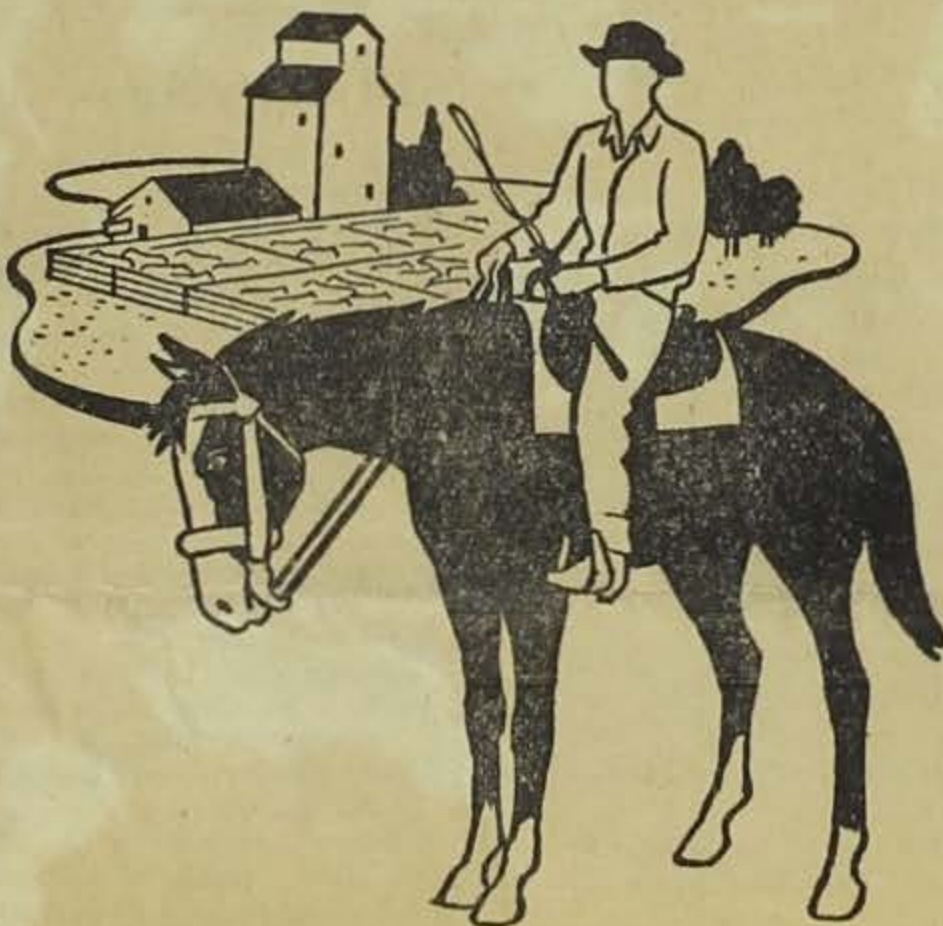


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Albia, Iowa

Tom Dougherty Is Double Winner In Monroe County Plowing Match

ALBIA.—A double champion in the 1948 Monroe county plowing match, held on the Earl Rouse farm Friday, Tom Dougherty of Pleasant township took firsts in both level and contour competition. His scores were 92.16 for level plowing and 86.66 in the contour match.

In 1948 Dougherty had placed first in contour with a score of 83.16; the level match of that year was won by Clifford Davis, whose score was 91.666.

In the tractor rodeo Friday Dougherty also won the second place prize of \$10, which he endorsed to the memorial fund for

John Davis, Albia airport manager who died in June of fatal injuries suffered in his burning airplane.

Dougherty received the Monroe county soil district's traveling gold cup in addition to cash prizes. Awards were presented by Howard Willson, chairman of the USDA council.

Second place scores were won by Virgil Scribner, 90.83 in level plowing; and Howard Davis, 86 in contour. Lowest scores were 64.83 in the level match and 76 in the contour division.

Tractor Safety Event.

A tractor operation safety contest was a new feature here this

year, giving points on mechanical condition, fuel system, ignition system, having shields properly in place for the power take-off, fan and other parts; cleanliness and orderliness of tractor, safety or hazard accessories, smoothness of operation, operating position, prohibiting extra riders, suitability of operator's clothing and operator's alertness and consideration of spectators and helpers. Of a possible 110 points Steve Strasko scored 95, James Conway 89, Mike Koffman 87, Lloyd Goode 84, Howard Davis 81, Sherwood Koontz 79, Dougherty 78, Ivan Shelquist 76, Virgil Scribner 74, and Billie Winecup 66. The judge for this event was Norval Wardle, farm safety specialist of Iowa State college.

Sylvan T. Runkel of Ottumwa, district soil conservationist, conducting a "walk the contour" contest, registered 10 farmers in that event, the purpose of which is to test the farmer's aptitude in determining the contour line, and which was originated at the 1948 Lucas county matches. With the testing level figure set at 5, the best score of 5.13 was won by

John Koffman of Albia route 3, who lives on a farm of 435 acres with 30 to 40 acres contoured. Estil Gay of Albia route 1, a pioneer in contour farming which he started on his 192-acre farm in 1941, was a close second with 5.16. The lowest score, 5.7, gave a consolation prize, a contour level, to C. C. Roberts of Eddyville route 1 who has not so far practiced contour farming. Other competitors in this unique contest feature were Martin Roberts, Ralph Spencer, Jack Spurgin, Kenneth Hinton, Bob McGinnis, George Conway and Lloyd Brown. Runkel proclaimed all scores highly commendable, and all contestants except C. C. Roberts have from 15 to 40 acres in contouring practice.

Tractor Rodeo Winners.

In the tractor rodeo, made up of five events, the 1948 rodeo winner, Frank Chelar, again proved himself the most skillful manipulator with a total score of 96 points of a possible 100. His winning score last year was 92. Dougherty as runnerup scored 87.5. Other rodeo contestants and their scores were Lee Rogers, 82; Vaughn Faber, 75; George McCombs, 61; Lloyd Goode, 58; John Conway, 42; Virgil Scribner, 40; Ivan Shelquist, 34; and Mike Koffman, 30.

The highlight of the day's speaking program was an address by Everett T. Winter, vice president

of the Mississippi Valley association, of Omaha. Speaking on the importance of soil conservation in farm production, Winter dramatically illustrated that the greatest conservation demonstration was an involuntary one in the 38-day storm period of the summer of 1947, when flood damages officially estimated at \$423 million brought 69 per cent less soil loss on farms practicing conservation. Loss on conservation land at the time was \$1.34 per acre, against loss of \$26.99 per acre on non-conservation farms. "But," said Winter, "we cannot afford any more such half billion dollar demonstrations."

He pointed out conservation progress made since the half century from 1895 to 1935, when soil loss was a million acres per year, but which has been cut to a half million-acre loss annually through conservation practices since 1935. He credits increased farm production also to a more efficient use of manpower, better seed and better machinery. He lists the really scarce resources which need to be husbanded by all Americans as time, skill and human energy.

Winter illustrated the farmer's

importance to the nation by quoting statistics showing that industry is dependent upon agriculture for two thirds of its industrial raw materials, while 63 per cent of the nation's labor group is dependent upon the farmer for raw materials, and 55 per cent of all labor is engaged in producing, processing or transporting farm products. "The soil is the very basis of our civilization . . . hunger has always been the great destroyer of free government," he said.

Herb Plambeck of Des Moines, station WHO's farm program director, also addressed the large contest audience, and other speakers were Willson, Clifford Davis, Herbert Bettis as master of ceremonies; and James Foster, district soil conservation commissioner and former state representative from this county, who

MON., AUG. 15, 1949. OTTUMWA DAILY COURIER

In the 53rd general assembly headed bill 294, which gave Iowa a \$250,000 annual appropriation for soil conservation. The first money given for conservation in this state, its administration

Foster said will be determined at regional meetings for district commissioners to be scheduled by the state conservation commission. About \$2,000 in each district will

Continued on page 19.

Tom Dougherty Winner In Monroe

Continued from page 7.

be used for clerical and field work and Foster said that exceptional interest had been evidenced by all districts in wise use of the fund for all phases of the conservation program and its needed equipment.

Terrace Construction.

A demonstration of terrace construction followed the speaking program, under the supervision of John Botts, conservation service aide, and George Guttman of Ottumwa, agricultural engineer. Equipment used in constructing two terraces was loaned by Lowell Boehme of the Briggs Motors Tire Store and operated by John Conway.

Detailed arrangements for the contest and preparation of grounds were in charge of the Farm Bureau headed by its president, Homer Berry, and extension director, Lloyd Reid; the soils conservation service led by Harold M. Anderson; and other agencies of the USDA council directed by Chairman Willson. The Albia Chamber of Commerce was responsible for generous cash contributions which made up the prize awards and operating expenses. Monroe county Rural Women and 4-H Boys, who supplied noon lunch and afternoon refreshments on the grounds, also aided in raising funds.

Bill Stark, farm planner for Appanoose county's soil conservation service, served as chief referee for Friday's all-day program. Judges for level plowing were J. R. Rukgaber, Wapello county extension director; Art Streepy, Appanoose county soil district chairman; and Leo Drake of Memphis, Mo., 1947 level plowing champion. Contour plowing

was judged by Leland McCord, Davis county SCS farm planner; George Scott, Appanoose county soil district commissioner; and Veryl Wilkinson, 1948 Davis county and district plowing champion.



Courtesy correspondent's photo.

Tom Dougherty, third from the left, receives a gold cup as winner of both the level and contour plowing events of the Monroe county contest. Left to right are S. T. Runkel of Ottumwa, soil conservation service technician; Lloyd Reid, Monroe county extension director; Dougherty, and Harold M. Anderson, Monroe county farm planner.

Soil Conservation Has Taken Great Strides In Iowa, Greater Progress Anticipated

Iowa farmers have come a long way in adopting soil conservation methods during the past 10 to 15 years, and there are indications of even greater strides in the next 10 years.

In the past 15 years particularly, people have come to realize what the problems are and what must be done to solve them. L. E. Clapp, extension soil conservationist at Iowa State College, said this week. This is true, he said, in spite of the fact that skeptics say that little has been accomplished.

Clapp has watched and has had a part in the soil conservation movement since it first began in Iowa. For years, farmers have used practices, such as liming and growing legumes, advocated by the college. However, little or no contouring, terracing or other erosion control practices were being carried out 15 years ago. Then erosion control experimental farms and watershed control demonstrations were started. CCC boys began building brush dams to help hold gullies in check.

Tie Steps Together

These were important steps even though anyone of them alone was not nearly enough, according to Clapp. The next step was a program to tie all of these practices together so they would work as a unit. Farm conservation plans were developed by farmers with the aid of technicians working in the newly organized soil conservation districts.

Today, many farmers know firsthand the value of contouring, terracing, having a rotation fitted to the land, draining wet land, using manure, fertilizer and lime, and sodding waterways. Many more see the problem and are taking steps to solve it.

Much Yet to Do

Another channel in which soil conservation has progressed is the recognition by the general public of its responsibility to the movement. "The attitude is increasing over the country that society as a whole has an important stake in how land is used or misused," Clapp said.

He cautions Iowans not to become complacent, however. There is still a long way to go before every farmer's operations are geared to the land he works.

Looking at the future, Clapp believes progress will be made faster in the next decade. Experimental farms being set up throughout the state will help solve problems in their specific areas.

A lot will be done in the next

years through school, 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, vocational agriculture classes, rural youth groups, young married people's groups and women's organizations.

Clapp said that the growing attitude of people everywhere is, "If we are going to get this soil conservation job done, we must start with the children in grade school, carry it out more intensively in youth programs right through to the farmer and his wife."

Farmers Can Initiate Petition to Form Planning Groups

Here's how the U. S. Soils district works.

This outline of its activities was given by Harold Anderson, farm planner, as an information guide for farmers wishing to take advantage of the technical services of the U. S. Soil Conservation service.

The initiative in the forming of the various neighborhood groups is taken by the farmers themselves. The farmers petition the soils commissioners for the formation of a planning group.

Following this an organization meeting is held with the 6 to 15 farmers making up each group. A conservation survey map is prepared of each farm. A series of three farm planning meetings is held with the group.

Then the technicians from the district office go over each farm with the owner or the tenant. Together they walk over every bit of the farm, discuss the types of soils, the uses to which the farmer wants to put these soils.

The technician then works out with the farmer a complete conservation plan on a five-year basis. The plan is made so that it can be continued indefinitely, always allowing for the changes to meet the changing needs of the farmers and to take advantage of technical progress.

The soils technicians also aid the farmer in the locating of his ponds, terraces, contour lines, and in the planning of the proper crops for his farm.

Cackle Club and Husbands to Meet—

The Cackle Club members and their husbands will be entertained Thursday evening, June 23, by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Allen, at their country home.



Pat Coady, Franklin township farmer and member of the county AAA committee, knows that a good pasture and meadow ties right in with the conservation plan for his farm. Coady is shown here examining an excellent stand he has in an alfalfa-timothy meadow. Coady has a rough farm, principally pasture and meadow, and he knows the value of good conservation practices in farming this type of land.

Cooperating

(Complete Story, Page 1)

Eleven Monroe county framers are cooperating in the program described in this article by Charles Greenlee. The records these farmers are keeping will form part of the basis for the recommendations to be made through the Farm and Home Management Program.

Monroe county farmers co-operating with the group are:

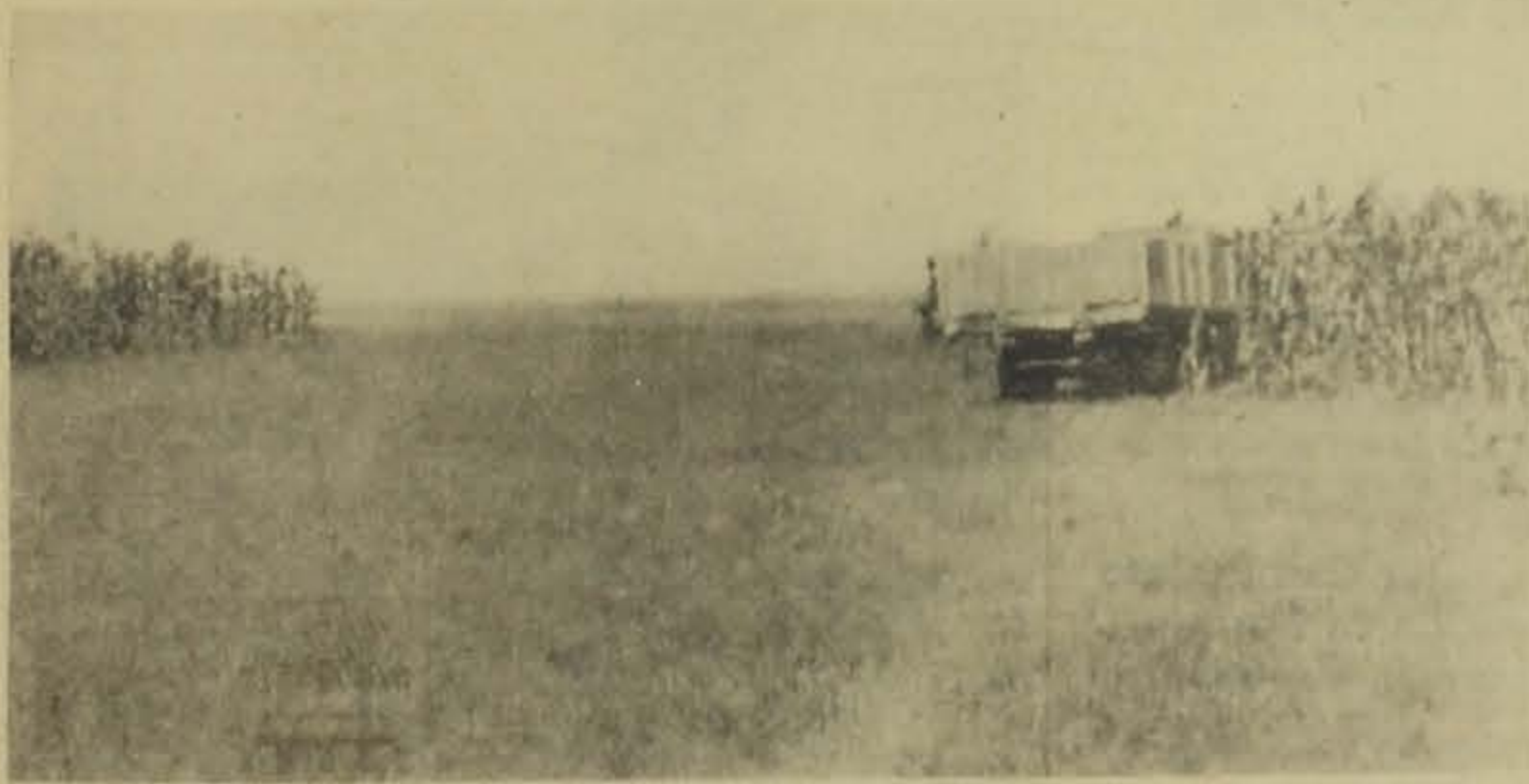
Tom Dougherty, Bluff Creek; Wendell Rowles and Herbert Bestia, Troy; Cyrus Hall, Monroe; Sterling Martin, Wayne; Wayne Thompson, Franklin; Dick Sandifer, Urbana; Kenneth Sinclair, Tracy Forsythe, and J. Carl Johnston, Mantua; and Roy Himelick, Pleasant.

Wesleyan Class Met At Allen Home—

The Wesleyan Sunday School class of the Methodist church met at the home of Mrs. Louis Allen in the country Tuesday evening for their regular monthly meeting. Mrs. Charles Warner had charge of the devotions for the evening. By a unanimous vote, Mrs. Charles Warner, president, and Mrs. Henry Kolling, secretary-treasurer, were held over as officers for the new year. After the business meeting a couple of contests were enjoyed, after which dainty refreshments were served by the hostess, and Mrs. Myrtle Thompson, assisting hostess. There will be no meeting in the month of July, and a picnic is scheduled for August.

Read the Want Ads!

Grassed Waterway



Shown in this picture is a wide grassed waterway on the Pat Carbin farm near Melrose. This waterway is seeded with brome grass at present. It provides an excellent carry-off for the water. Wide grassed waterways such as this can be mowed to provide hay or pastured off when the corn fields are pastured in the fall.



Here, in the making, is a diversion dike on the Pat Carbin farm. The bulldozer has been used to fill in the gullies that were on this hillside. The diversion dike on which Carbin is standing has been built up and the water will be diverted around the dike, until the sod has been established on the flume below. This flume, now shown under construction, will carry the water later, as the top of the diversion dike will be sliced off in order to allow the flume to carry the water away.

Terraces Are Most Effective Means of Controlling Erosion

By Harold Anderson

Monroe County Farm Planner

More and more Monroe county farmers are recognizing terracing for what it is—the most effective supporting erosion control practice which can be used with cropland.

Monroe county farmers this spring have built 5.34 miles of terraces, compared with 1.27 miles during the same period a year ago. A total of 12 miles of terraces have been built since the Monroe County Soil Conservation district started five years ago.

These totals are not impressive in themselves, except as they indicate the trend toward terracing.

A terrace can be defined as a raised platform of earth with sloping sides. Those most familiar to people in this area have a broad-based ridge with a wide channel about 15 inches deep along the upper edge. The total width of the

channel and ridge varies from 30 to 40 feet.

A well constructed terrace will accommodate a lot of run-off water and discharge it safely into a well-grassed outlet.

Terrace construction is generally limited to sloping land which is suitable for the production of row crops, slopes not exceeding 10 per cent. Terracing is not an alternative to permanent vegetative cover of grass or trees.

Crops are rotated in a terrace field the same as in any cropland field. Corn may be planned in the channel and on the ridge with the rows running parallel to the terrace. Small grain can be seeded on the terrace, or a hay crop grown.

Terraces, too, will keep the manure, lime, and commercial fertilizers from being washed from the

field with the precious top soil, and thus contribute to increased crop yields.

Most of the terraces in Monroe county have been built with ordinary farm tractors and plows. Under average conditions 100 to 150 feet of terrace per hour is built with this equipment.

Some of the farmers have used a "whirlwind" terracer, powered by a large farm tractor, thus speeding up construction considerably.

Among the Monroe county farmers who have constructed terraces during the fall of 1948 and the spring of 1949 are Pat Carbin, Ira Leuman, Everett Pearson, Roy Parry, Herbert Bettis, Denzil Patton, Roy Wilkin, Sterling Martin, Homer Berry, Jack Bickert, Guy Bates, Gail Hinton, Paul Wignall, Fred Sandeen, Manford Derry, Frank Bell, Elmer Nixon, Bob McGinnis, William Ewing, John Conway, Ed Flattery, Herman Liggett, Wilbur Biven and D. J. Beary.

An estimated 40,000 gold seekers crossed the continent to reach California in 1849.

Pat and Dorothy Carbin Like This Conservation Farming

"Conservation farming is just one of those things that dawn on you overnight." That's the way Pat Carbin tells it. And just about overnight Pat has converted his farm into one of the best conservation exhibits in Monroe county.

The 35-year-old Jackson township farmer has a 240-acre farm of his own and with it he's farming 160 acres owned by his sister, Mary E. Carbin.

With 400 acres to farm by himself, with only occasional hired help, Pat figures on putting in a 12 to 14 hour day at least—on a six day a week basis. He's convinced himself that conservation farming is work, at least it's more work the first couple of years while you're getting it started.

But you listen to Pat talk a while and you're convinced that conservation farming pays.

Pat started in farming in the thirties with his father, and when the latter died in 1938 Pat took over the running of the farm. He farmed it in the traditional manner for a number of years, but about 1947 got interested in conservation farming. That year he started a few waterways and he planted some of his corn on the contour.

In May 1948 Pat's farm plan was approved by the District Soils Commissioners and that's when Pat started his conservation farming in earnest.

His farm plan calls for 268 acres of contour planting, and Pat has 165 acres in contour this year. He's improved 10 of the 73 acres scheduled for pasture improvement. He's completed his 4 acres of wildlife planting, constructed two ponds, finished nearly half of the 3.3 miles of terraces, built part of his diversion dikes, planted more than 950 feet of multiflora rose fence, and constructed 750 feet of grass waterways (half of the total planned). He's also done about 400 rods of open draining.

Farm plans as laid out are for a period of five years, but working longer hours, hiring some help, Pat has managed to put almost half of his plan into operation within a year after it was approved.

Is it worth it?

Pat replies with a mild, "I guess so." But talk to him a little longer and his enthusiasm becomes more evident and even contagious. With the proper use of fertilizers, he's increased his yield of corn (now being planted on the contour). "This year I can notice a world of difference, particularly in the oats," he adds.

What's the purpose behind all of this?

Pat figures that if he's going to be a farmer he's going to be a good farmer. He's raising beef and he's building up his herd as the carrying capacity of the land increases. The genial Irishman is a bit optimistic, too. He figures that land which he used to have in timothy pasture required about three or four acres per steer. Now he's got the same land in brome-alfalfa pasture, added some lime and phosphate to the soil, and figures the carrying capacity of the same land at two to three times the former figure. When his program is complete Pat will be carrying about 100 head of beef cattle on the farm at all times.

Of course Pat gets a lot of help and encouragement from his wife, Dorothy, a petite blonde who learned to milk the cows, who

takes care of the chickens, and who everyday is herself becoming more enthused about the program being put into effect on their farm.

The couple expect to be "over the hump in 1950." That means most of the permanent improvements will have been completed by that time.

This of course includes the remodeling of their home on the farm, because at present Pat is traveling 7 miles each way out to the farm from their Melrose home. And that takes a lot of working hours when he could be in the fields.

But the couple like the farm. They like conservation farming. To them it's a satisfying experience. And the difference is already beginning to be felt financially, with their increased yields.

The genial Irishman and his Swedish wife are sticking with conservation farming.

You can't bank on ideal weather conditions from year to year. That's another good reason why you should start the 1949 cropping season with a good rotation. Seed some land to grass.

Kildee Urges Six Point Program for Sound Farming

Iowa is in urgent need of a six-point soil management program to put the state's productive ability on firm ground for the years ahead, Dean H. H. Kildee, director of agriculture at Iowa State College, said this week.

He called on every farmer to make a special effort to start a sounder soil management program at the beginning of the new crop year. "Our responsibilities are greater individually and collectively because Iowa, with only 1.8 percent of the total land area in the United States, has more than 25 percent of all the grade A land in the country," Kildee said.

6-Point Program

The six-point soil management program which he advocated included:

1. Wise land use by following a logical crop rotation on each farm. This would provide an increased acreage of grasses and legumes in order to help control erosion, maintain soil fertility, and produce more efficiently the livestock and livestock products which provide the bulk of Iowa's farm income. Iowa's agricultural and economic greatness is determined by her intelligent and efficient farm operators, her soil, crops, and livestock and livestock products.

2. Application of farming practices which will check and prevent erosion. Contouring, terracing and grassed waterways are among the more important of these.

3. More adequate drainage. Kildee reminded that thousands of acres of crops were lost in Iowa during the wet spring of 1947.

4. The conservation and effective use of farm manures. The manure produced annually on Iowa farms contains over 600,000 tons of plant food and it supplies much needed humus.

Kildee said that too much of

GOP Champions Better Soil, Water Conservation Through Legislature

(Editors Note: The following information was released by the Republican State Headquarters, Des Moines, in connection with the observation of Soil Conservation Week, proclaimed by Governor William S. Beardsley from July 19 to 25.)

Through the years the Republican party in Iowa has been a champion of better soil and water conservation.

June 19 to 25 has been designated as Soil Conservation Week in Iowa and it's a good time to take stock of what the Republican party has done in this important phase of farm life.

Back in 1939 a Republican Legislature saw fit to adopt a soil conservation district law which permits farmers to band together in a co-operative effort to battle soil erosion. The following year, in 1940, the first district was established in Marion county. Since that time there have been 96 districts formed in the state, making Iowa one of the leaders in soil conservation work.

Since 1939, each succeeding Republican governor has stressed the need for soil conservation. Governor Beardsley, himself a farmer and one who is vitally interested in conservation of natural resources, set aside next week to point up the importance of soil conservation.

"Destruction of Iowa's fertile soil would doom forever our social and economic life," the governor's proclamation said. "It is of paramount importance to those Iowans on the land and city dwellers as well that we conserve Iowa's greatest resource, the fertile soil. Much has been accomplished which will be of lasting good and the promise of greater accomplishments in the future is one of the bright spots in Iowa's agricultural empire."

Iowa's nearly 100 percent organization of soil conservation districts places the state in the front ranks in this important battle. Unlike Missouri, which has only 15 districts in the entire state, Iowa farmers have recognized the need of working shoulder-to-shoulder in neighborhood and county organizations to control the run-off of water which erodes precious soil. They have a forward-looking program of saving the soil which will make a more prosperous Iowa.

LEGISLATURE KIND—

The Republican-dominated legislature during its recent session also saw fit to enact legislation along this line. Not only did the Republican leadership in the House and Senate pilot important flood control bills through to enactment, but increased the size of

the state soil conservation committee and for the first time in history appropriated state funds for use directly by soil districts. The legislature also set up a natural resources council which will coordinate flood control and conservation activities. Governor Beardsley, in his inaugural address urged the legislators to adopt such legislation pointing out that both floods and soil erosion could be halted by "nailing the raindrop where it falls and making the water walk instead of run."

IN CONGRESS, TOO—

Iowa Congressman Ben Jensen

of Exira has taken steps in Washington to encourage soil conservation and prevent "soilcide." Earlier this year he introduced the Soil Conservation Act of 1949 which provides the legislative framework for the effective administration of a U. S. Department of Agriculture soil conservation program. Under his plan, land-use conversion payments will encourage farmers to use some of the land contributing to such surplus for the production of crops for which there is a greater demand, such as grass for meat and dairy livestock and timber.

Jensen explains that conservation payments and grants-in-aid are provided in such a manner that the "taxpayer can be assured that the nation will receive a dollar's worth of benefits in true, effective soil conservation for every dollar spent.

Seed Tired Land in Forage Crops

Land on many Iowa farms is getting tired from carrying the tremendous production load during the war and during the period of high prices since the war. That land needs to be put to forage crops and given a rest from intertilled crop production.

That advice comes from Dr. W. H. Pierre, head of the Agronomy department of Iowa State college. He says that 1949 is the year to start back on a sound land-use program.

He points out that stepped-up production so necessary during the war brought much grassland in the state into intertilled crop production. Since the war, high prices have tempted farmers to plant as many acres as possible to intertilled crops. The feeling has been, "grow as much corn as possible this year because next year may find the bonanza gone."

This past year, 12.7 million acres were in intertilled crops. That represents nearly 50 per cent of all the tillable land in Iowa. Pierre believes that this is too much and that more acreages should be in forages. He says that the philosophy of making the most of the bonanza of high prices can't be continued long if Iowa is to maintain her standing as an important food producer.

Intertilled crops, particularly corn, use plant food much faster than do most other crops. Too, loss from erosion is greater on rolling land. On the other hand, legumes and grasses hold the soil together to prevent erosion, they help maintain organic matter and nitrogen, they increase yields of other crops in the rotation, and they build good soil tilth.

"The extremely favorable weather conditions of 1948, which resulted in the largest corn crop in our history, has probably given many farmers a false feeling of security," Pierre states. Favorable weather can make up partly for nitrogen-depleted soils but, at the same time, the soil nitrogen is further decreased.

When poor seasons come, poorly managed and overcropped soils give very low corn yields, Pierre says. He cited 1947 as an example. In crop rotation experiments at Ames and Clarinda in 1947, the yields of corn which followed sod in the rotation averaged about 20 to 25 bushels more per acre than corn which followed corn. This was also the experience of many farmers in all parts of the state. It is in such poor crop years as 1947 that extra production is particularly important.

Gives Reasons

Pierre says there are several reasons why 1949 is the time to start the long pull to regain the productivity drained from the soil

during the past six years. A bumper crop in 1948 has increased feed supplies. Farm prices have slackened so they don't warrant gambling another year with overcropping. Too many acres in intertilled crops will reduce yields per acre not only in 1949 but also in 1950.

Pierre recommends seeding legumes with every acre of oats sowed this spring. Plan livestock programs to profitably use pasture and hay that are necessary to keep soil from eroding and becoming unproductive.

CAPITOL NEWS

Work will be started this summer on five lakes, a part of the state conservation commission's program to expand recreation facilities in Iowa.

Five artificial lakes are included in the program, which will extend through February of next year. The 1947 legislature appropriated \$1,272,000 for the projects, but commission officials say that part of the \$2,700,000 allocated by the 1949 session may be used to finance the work.

The largest project is Rock Creek Lake in Jasper county which will be a 1,500-acre lake and when completed will be the largest artificial lake in the state. Only five natural lakes are larger than the one proposed in Jasper county.

A 450-acre lake will be built in Honey Creek park, halfway between Washington and Fairfield and it will become the second largest artificial lake in the state. The smallest, covering only 14 acres, will be constructed at Cold Springs in Cass county.

Others included in the program are Goede state park, in Henry and Des Moines counties, 250 acres, and Nine Eagles state park in Decatur county near Davis City, 60 acres.

Preliminary work on all five lakes has been in progress for several weeks. Expansion of the lakes system is part of the commission's 25-year plan which calls for construction of lakes throughout the state so that recreational waters eventually will be within 25 miles of every home in the state.

SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK—

Next week has been designated as Soil Conservation Week in Iowa. Official designation of the week points up the strides made in soil saving during the past ten years since the first district was established in Marion County.

The first district in the state was

established in the spring of 1940. Since that time 95 other counties have joined in the fight against soil and water losses and there are only four counties which do not have soil districts. They are Lyon, Osceola, Worth and Mitchell. Iowa is in the front rank in soil conservation, ranking ahead of other neighboring states such as Illinois and Nebraska which have nearly all their counties organized. But Missouri has only 15 districts in the entire state.

One of the goals of the state conservation committee is to get all farms in the state to adopt complete farm plans. Such plans call for use of all conservation practices, such as terracing, tilling, rotation of crops and of soil-building practices.

Action by the 1949 legislature shows the great interest in conservation. The solons not only appropriated \$285,000 to enlarge the committee from seven members.

June 23, 1949

June 23, 1949

Charles Interrupts Lunch



Most of the photographs for this Soil Conservation edition of The Union-Republican were made by Robby Norberg, 13-year-old staff photographer for The Albia Newspapers. When he visited the Henry Conway farm southeast of Albia young Charles Conway interrupted his lunch to show Robby some bright new baby chicks. That's a sandwich in Charle's right hand—a chick at left. Charles didn't get confused about which was which, but the chick appears a bit puzzled.

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John Koffman of Albia route 3, who lives on a farm of 435 acres with 30 to 40 acres contoured. Earl Gay of Albia route 1, a pioneer in contour farming which he started on his 192-acre farm in 1941, was a close second with 5.18. The lowest score, 5.7, gave a consolation prize, a contour level, to C. C. Roberts of Eddyville route 1 who has not so far practiced contour farming. Other competitors in this unique contest feature were Martin Roberts, Ralph Spencer, Jack Spurgin, Kenneth Hixon, Bob McGinnis, George Conway and Lloyd Brown. Runkel proclaimed all scores highly commendable, and all contestants except C. C. Roberts have from 15 to 40 acres in contouring practice.

Tractor Rodeo Winners.

In the tractor rodeo, made up of five events, the 1948 rodeo winner Frank Chelar, again proved to be the most skillful manipulator with a total score of 96 out of a possible 100. His winning score last year was 92. Dougherty as runnerup scored 87. Other rodeo contestants and their scores were Lee Rogers, 82; Vaughn Faber, 75; George McCann, 61; Lloyd Goode, 58; John Conway, 42; Virgil Scribner, 40; Ivan Shelquist, 34; and Mike Koffman 30.

A highlight of the day's speaking program was an address by Earl T. Winter, vice president

of the Mississippi Valley association, of Omaha. Speaking on the importance of soil conservation in farm production, Winter dramatically illustrated that the greatest conservation demonstration was an involuntary one in the 38-day storm period of the summer of 1947, when flood damages officially estimated at \$423 million brought 69 per cent less soil loss on farms practicing conservation. Loss on conservation land at the time was \$1.34 per acre, against loss of \$26.99 per acre on non-conservation farms. "But," said Winter, "we cannot afford any more such half billion dollar demonstrations."

He pointed out conservation progress made since the half century from 1895 to 1935, when soil loss was a million acres per year, but which has been cut to a half million-acre loss annually through conservation practices since 1935. He credits increased farm production also to a more efficient use of manpower, better seed and better machinery. He lists the really scarce resources which need to be husbanded by all Americans as time, skill, and human energy.

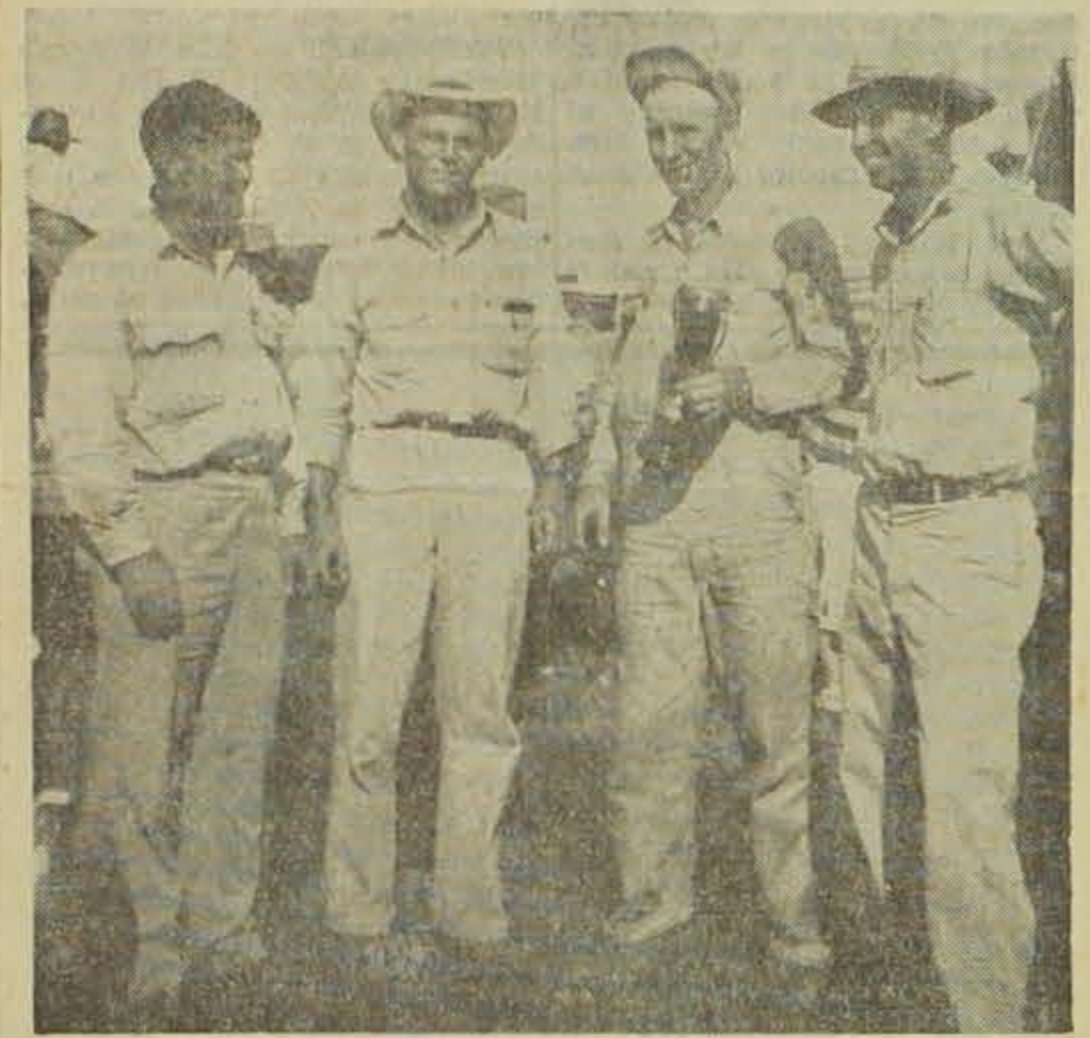
Winter illustrated the farmer's

importance to the nation by quoting statistics showing that industry is dependent upon agriculture for two thirds of its industrial raw materials, while 63 per cent of the nation's labor group is dependent upon the farmer for raw materials, and 55 per cent of all labor is engaged in producing, processing or transporting farm products. "The soil is the very basis of our civilization . . . hunger has always been the great destroyer of free government," he said.

Herb Plambeck of Des Moines, station WHO's farm program director, also addressed the large contest audience, and other speakers were Willson, Clifford Davis, Herbert Bettis as master of ceremonies; and James Foster, district soil conservation commissioner and former state representative from this county, who

in the 53rd general assembly headed bill 294, which gave Iowa a \$250,000 annual appropriation for soil conservation. The first money given for conservation in this state, its administration

Foster said will be determined at regional meetings for district commissioners to be scheduled by the state conservation commission. About \$2,000 in each district will be allocated for conservation. Continued on page 18



Courier correspondent's photo.

Tom Dougherty, third from the left, receives a gold cup as winner of both the level and contour plowing events of the Monroe county contest. Left to right are S. T. Runkel of Ottumwa, soil conservation service technician; Lloyd Reid, Monroe county extension director, Dougherty, and Harold M. Anderson, Monroe county farm planner.

August 15, 1949
Ottumwa Courier

Pick Up Corn With Help of Livestock

A lot of Iowa's bumper corn crop is on the ground because of dropped ears and broken stalks caused by wind and corn borer damage. Farmers have a problem of saving this down corn.

Hogs, beef cattle, and sheep can utilize down corn to advantage but dairy cows should be kept out of the fields, say animal husbandmen at Iowa State College.

C. C. Culbertson of the college

says that hogs offer the best means of feeding the corn. However, good fences are required.

Use Big Cattle

Beef cattle offer the next best way of feeding the corn. Bigger cattle work best for this purpose. They should be kept in the dry lot until they are on full feed before being turned into the corn field. At night they should be put on pasture, or if pasture isn't available, they can be brought into the lot and given hay.

Sheep, too, can be used to glean down corn. Here again it is necessary to get them on full feed first, and give them hay or pasture at night, Culbertson says.

Not Dairy Cows

Dairy cows, on the other hand, won't utilize the corn efficiently. Joe Hineman, extension dairyman, says that large amounts of corn in the field will limit the consumption of good quality roughage. Then cows will not get a balanced ration at the barn. This will create a deficiency of proper nutrients, resulting in a drop in milk production.

After the supply of corn drops off

cows will have to do considerable walking in order to find feed. Consequently the cow will use the valuable energy through exercise that should go into producing milk.

Hineman also points out that stalks are likely to cause injury to udders from which mastitis may develop.

Harold Gunderson, extension entomologist, says the corn fields sprayed with DDT should not be pastured by dairy cows. Residues of the chemical may find their way into the milk. Animals that are to be sold for meat also should be kept off sprayed fields at least 30 days before shipping time.

Evergreens Require Moisture in Fall

When evergreens and cedar trees turn brown and drop their needles in the spring, it's usually due to lack of attention in the fall rather than fungus disease.

Most trouble with browning and needle dropping is caused by a lack of water during fall and early

winter months, according to Arden Sherf, extension plant pathologist at Iowa State College. Evergreen trees continue to lose water all winter because they retain their needle-type leaves in contrast to deciduous trees which shed their leaves and thus require less moisture during winter.

Sherf says you can ward off this trouble next spring by watering evergreen heavily at weekly intervals this fall up until the ground freezes solid.

October 31, 1949

Council to Sponsor Tour of Pastures

The Monroe County USDA Council will sponsor a tour Thursday of some of the renovated pastures entered in the 1951 Pasture Contest.

All Monroe county farmers are invited to take part in the tour, which will begin at 1 p.m. at Hilton church.

Farms of Keith Clark, Lee Rogers and Warren Rouse will be visited. Reports on costs and returns covering the renovated areas will be given.

Rural school boys and girls and their teachers have been invited to participate in the tour. An announcement of the program was being distributed by County Schools Superintendent Ether Roberts.

Economic Background of Farm Policy

(The article by C. Addison Hickman, professor of economics at the University of Iowa, appeared in the October issue of Iowa Business Digest. Excerpts of Prof. Hickman's article are printed below.)

Farm policy can be understood and appraised only when the economics of American agriculture are first taken into account. The "farm problem" has many aspects, ranging all the way from insects to chronic surpluses and dwindling foreign markets. It may also appear in very different perspective to an Iowa corn-hog producer, a Kansas wheat farmer, a Maine potato grower, or a subsistence farmer in Alabama.

In terms of farm policy, however, our concern is with those economic maladjustments which are common to most of the agriculture, affect the welfare of the entire economy, and give impetus to government intervention. To many, it seems paradoxical to dwell upon the past or potential distress of American farmers, who are apparently prosperous and in their soundest financial position in decades. Prices of most farm products have declined since early 1948, but they are near or above parity and far above pre-World War II levels.

Farm income has dropped a little, but income remains astronomical by past standards. Farmers who live more comfortably than before the war, as modern technology has improved scales of living as well as methods of production. The value of their physical assets has nearly doubled since 1940; their holdings of currency, bank deposits, and government securities have increased five-fold; and the volume of their mortgage debt has been drastically pared. Is there actually any "farm problem?"

Despite such tangible evidence of prosperity, apprehension about the future is widespread. Surpluses are returning and enormous stocks of cotton, wheat, and corn are again being accumulated, posing an obvious threat to price-support guarantees and price and income levels. Farm income is very large, but millions of people are still living in poverty on marginal or sub-marginal farms. Off-farm migration continues, but it has not been sufficient to prevent persistent underemployment on countless farms. Above all, memories of the interwar farm collapse are still vivid and "ten cent corn" remains a stark symbol. Such fears have helped to generate terrific drive in support of both an aggressive farm policy and a vigorous economic nationalism.

Most of the basic maladjustments of American agriculture originate, however, in the relationships between farming and the urban, industrial segment of the economy. This collaboration has brought growth, wealth, and mounting scales of living. It has also caused grievous problems, especially for agriculture, which has often found its tempo and economics are variance with that of industry. Among the various major economic difficulties which result are the disequilibrium between the rates of production and consumption of agricultural products; the extreme vulnerability of farming to industrial depression and unemployment; and the prevalence in agriculture of underemployment and an uneconomic allocation of resources.

Farm output has spurred in recent years, with wide-spread application of an impressive new technology. Hybrids, fertilizers, insecticides, weed-killers, disease control and extensive mechanization have made hitherto spectacular yields commonplace. A smaller labor force, on a relatively constant acreages, is now feeding a much larger population at higher levels of consumption. Per-acre yields of many major crops have shown much greater increases since the mid-1930's than during the previous two-thirds of a century. Net product per man has also greatly increased.

Consumption of farm products has also increased, especially under the impetus of the wartime and post war domestic booms and the protracted recovery programs abroad. There remains some evidence, however, that the demand for farm commodities may not be sufficient to absorb farm output at price and income levels that farmers consider adequate.

If higher income levels could take up the slack caused by a declining rate of population growth, the demand for farm products might still prove adequate. Unfortunately, this is not likely to be the case. It is true that expenditures for food increase as income levels rise, food accounting for a relatively constant percentage of consumer incomes. Although this does mean an impressive increase in the money demand for food during good times, the full effect of this increase does not reach the farmer.

The bulwarking influence of rising income levels upon the demand for farm products is also very uneven, being much more important to meat and dairy products than to such commodities as wheat and cotton. Thus, the chronic surpluses of the latter products that featured the interwar period and

are now returning are not likely to be eliminated by even sustained high-level income.

Farm commodities have also constituted a steadily diminishing fraction of American exports, although in the early interwar period they accounted for more than half of the total. Such declines have been especially evident in the case of such historic mainstays of our export trade as pork, wheat and cotton. These products have been plagued by increasingly limited and erratic export markets.

A second persistent weakness in the economic position of American agriculture is its notorious vulnerability to urban-industrial unemployment and depression. American agriculture is not predominantly commercial, most of its markets being in the towns and cities of this country. Because of the importance of the urban-industrial markets, farmers are thus immediately affected by industrial distress.

A third source of disequilibrium in American agriculture has been the relatively rigid resource pattern and a continuing misallocation of land, labor, and capital. A dynamic economy finds it desirable to be able to adjust the supply and combination of resources. In agriculture, this becomes doubly necessary because of the upsurge in technology, lagging demand, and sensitivity to urban-industrial fluctuations. Yet, American farming has been afflicted by an inability to move resources to where they can be most productive.

The uneconomic allocation of resources has many manifestations. It is also evident that despite recent mechanization there is

far too much labor and not enough capital in American agriculture. A student of this problem has summarized:

"This simply means that resources—human effort, land, and capital—are poorly utilized in much of agriculture. The evidence that we have cited suggests that the waste is prodigious, waste chiefly of time and energy of millions of farm people and of a vast amount of natural resources. Three economic afflictions, each of them chronic and of long standing, may be identified in agriculture as a result: (1) underemployment of human resources (2) an unwarranted disinvestment of natural resources (3) a wide-spread rationing of capital.

In terms of the foregoing analysis, what criteria can be established for gauging the effect of farm policy upon both agriculture and the general economy? What are some of the things which a farm policy must do if it is to be in the general as well as the special interest?

First, it is obvious that farm policy, while undrestandably concerned with alleviating short-run distress, should be primarily oriented toward preventing or remedying the basic causes of agriculture's economic maladjustments. Short-run policy, if pursued heedlessly, can preclude the establishment of those long-range policies which might make possible less frequent resource to improvisation and stop-gap expedients.

Second, farm policy should attempt to bring some balance between agricultural output and consumption at high levels of demand, rather than at drastically lowered levels of supply.

This is desirable on the general premise that more goods are better than less goods, more food to be preferred to less food, plenty to be preferred to malnutrition and starvation. It is also mandatory on "practical" grounds, simply because the recent spurt of farm technology renders truly effective output control virtually impossible.

Third, farm policy should be slanted toward promoting, or at the very least not impeding, the achievement of urban-industrial full employment and prosperity. A mere diversion or pirating of income through price rigging or by freezing the allocation of resources, can only damage farming in the long run. If the industrial segment of economy is prostrated the "farm problem" is insoluble.

Fourth, farm policy should not isolate or divorce our economy from that of the rest of the world. This is at least as necessary for farmers as for anyone else, not only because they retain some direct stake in foreign markets but also because they have a vital interest in domestic markets which are heavily conditioned by the health of the world economy.

Fifth, farm policy should promote the real location of resources both within agriculture and between farming and industry, wherever and whenever efficiency and the maximizing of the social product so dictate. If agriculture is to seek and perhaps receive price or income parity, it cannot justifiably continue to maintain uneconomic amounts and combinations of land, labor and capital.

November 3, 1949

College Now Ready For Seed Testing

Iowa farmers can take a positive step this fall toward a successful 1950 crop year by using the services of the Iowa State college Seed Testing Laboratory.

E. P. Sylwester, head of the laboratory, says that equipment is set up and ready to begin testing the 1949 seed crop. He urges Iowa farmers to select the seed to be tested and send samples now to the laboratory and avoid the rush that normally occurs during January, February and March.

Care should be taken to get a good, representative seed sample. Sylwester says to take seed from the top, middle and bottom of each sack or bin. Mix the three samples thoroughly and send this composite sample to the laboratory.

For corn, soybeans, oats or other small grain, a pound sample is required. A large cupful of seed is sufficient for clovers, grasses and alfalfa.

Seed testing pays dividends every year. If a farmer knows how much of the seed he plants will grow, he can get a good stand even if the germination is slightly low by adjusting the seeding rate according to the germination.

Seed tests help protect the farmer from buying seed that won't grow and from buying weed seeds. Sylwester points out that all seed that is to be sold as crop seed must be tested according to state law.

November 7, 1949

Supply of Alfalfa Seed Now Greater

Iowa farmers will find it easier to get hold of alfalfa seed this year. Supplies in this country, including this year's crop and carry-over, are 41 per cent larger than last year and 24 per cent above the 1943-47 average.

The largest alfalfa seed yields in 14 years coupled with a large acreage harvested this year are expected to result in the largest crop on record, according to E. S. Dyas, extension agronomist at Iowa State college. Production is forecast by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics to be 1,851,400 bushels of thresher-run seed. This is 78 per cent larger than last year's crop, 41 per cent above the 1938-47 average, and 29,000 bushels above the previous record crop in 1946.

Yield per acre this year is estimated at 1.93 bushels of thresher-run seed and is the largest since 1935. It compares with 1.64 bushels in 1946 and the 10-year average yield of 1.47 bushels. Prospects

are above average for all states except Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas.

The production picture is about the same over the country. A larger alfalfa seed crop is expected in all of the 22 producing states except Ohio and Indiana. Increases in production are largest in the southern states and smallest in the northern states. Most of the southern seed, principally from California, New Mexico and Arizona, is not adapted to Iowa conditions, according to Dyas.

Iowa's 1949 alfalfa seed crop is estimated to be 8,000 bushels. This is about 3,000 bushels more than last year but about 4,000 bushels less than the 1938-47 average. Iowa ranks twentieth as an alfalfa seed producing state.

Imports of alfalfa seed this year amounted to 20,268,100 pounds—the largest on record. This compares with about 7.5 million pounds the previous year and the 5-year average of about 6.1 million pounds of seed.

November 7, 1949

1949 Certified Seed Directory Ready

"Know the Seed You Plant," the 1949 Iowa certified seed directory, is now available to farmers on request to the certification office at Iowa State College or from county extension directors.

The directory includes a list of all growers of certified seed in Iowa, their addresses, and the number of acres of each crop which was field-inspected for certification this summer. Its purpose is to help prospective buyers locate sources of certified crop seed.

According to the directory, supplies of certified seed for 1950 planting in Iowa will be available in large quantity.

Thirty-nine varieties of corn were certified this year. A total of 14,031 acres passed field inspection. U. S. 13, Ohio C 92, Iowa 4316 and Iowa 4297 were among the corn varieties

having the largest acreage inspected.

More than 7,000 acres of reselect Clinton oats and 1,222 acres of Moore barley were inspected.

About 5,500 acres of soybeans were inspected for certification. That includes about 2,000 acres of Adams, the new variety being distributed to farmers for seed increase purposes through county seed distribution committees.

Fischer bromegrass with 396 acres, Emerson red clover with 113 acres and Lincoln brome with 53 acres led the forage crops inspected. Eight acres of loreed canarygrass passed field inspection.

Not in Accord on Farming Outlook

Uncertainty sprinkled with varying degrees of optimism characterizes the farm outlook picture for 1950, says Francis Kutish, Iowa State College extension economist.

Here's why. By far the most important factor in the farm outlook picture is what happens to business. The catch to that is that business forecasters don't agree among themselves on what 1950 holds in store.

BAE, Purdue Disagree

For example, the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics looks for a strong consumer demand for food and other farm products for the near future. But it feels that the story will be different in 1950. According to the BAE, total demand is likely to be somewhat less in 1950 than in 1940. The reason: Spendable income—both total and per person—will decrease somewhat from this year. What is more, the BAE believes that the share of the weekly pay check going for food will shrink.

On the other hands, Purdue University economists are more optimistic about 1950. They say that the postwar recession in general business appear near it low. By late 1949 or early 1950 business is expected to improve. At that time the Purdue economists look for general prices to level off or fluctuate around this point during most of the year.

SUI Optimistic

The Purdue economists conclude that farm income will be a little lower because of a narrower profit spread and probably a little weaker demand for meat animals.

The State University of Iowa economists are a little more cautious than the Purdue economists—but they still are on the optimistic side. They say: "It would be rash to forecast that the recession is over in agriculture, but it does seem reasonable to conclude that barring a drastic overhauling of our farm legislation, the worst is past."

County Oats Yields Range Up to 70; Average Is 40

Approximately 90 per cent of the county's 1950 small grain crop has been cut, according to Extension Director Lloyd Reid.

Threshing is now in full swing.

This year's oats crop will average 40 bushels per acre, Reid estimated. Highest yield reported so far is 70 bushels per acre, by Albert DeGeus, Monroe county Farm Bureau president.

Bill Shepherd of Lovilia reported a 35-bushel wheat yield, highest listed at Reid's office so far.

November 7, 1949

Said the Farmer to the Dairy Cow:

Won't You Come Into My Parlor?



The modern milking parlor puts the dairy farmer on a level with his work. Here Kenneth Hinton is attaching an automatic milker to one of his cows. The levers at right open and close the stanchion gates. Chain pulls attached to the loafing room doors allow Hinton to admit his cows to the parlor, and dismiss them, with a minimum of steps.

Follows Dairy Cow For More Profit From Farming

Milking Also Fits Into Soils Setup, Hinton Says.

Kenneth Hinton believes the dairy cow can lead the way to more profitable farming.

He's expanding operations in that field because he figures "it is suited to our needs."

The expansion includes not only more cows, but modern equipment and a well-planned program of soil conservation.

Hinton farms with his dad, W. W. Hinton, southeast of Albia. They have 160 acres, between 90 and 100 of them in cropland.

He's married and has a four-year-old daughter, Libby Ann.

Latest improvement in the Hinton dairy setup is a modern milking parlor. You can buy these parlors, Hinton made his.

The parlor is on two levels. The top tier is for the cows. There are three stanchions there, with entrances and exits for each controlled by the farmer from the lower level. He also opens and closes the doors leading from and back into the loafing room, where the cows spend their spare time before and after visiting their stanchions and the automatic milker.

Hinton likes the setup. It saves steps and it saves considerable bending up and down. Cleaning the parlor is a fairly simple process, too.

He's competing in the current Master Dairyman contest. His records show his nine cows—representing Guernsey, Holstein and Brown Swiss breeds—are averaging around 7000 pounds of milk for each lactation period of 305 days. That compares with a national average of 5000 pounds.

He wants to increase his herd in order to milk 15 cows the year around.

He has five heifers, three of them the result of artificial breeding. One, a Holstein, he recently purchased in Wisconsin.

The Hinton farm is in a recently organized soils planning group of the Monroe County District. He's a member of the Farm Bureau board, and with Mrs. Hinton serves on the Young Married Couples organization planning committee.

Hinton also is vice president of the Monroe County Breeders Cooperative association, which sponsors the artificial insemination program for dairy herds.

November 10, 1949

University of Iowa Professor Describes Farm Bill as an 'Uneasy Compromise'

The farm price bill passed last month by congress was an "uneasy, last-minute compromise" and does not resolve many of the basic problems of agricultural policy, according to Professor C. Addison Hickman of the State University of Iowa college of commerce.

Writing in the November issue of the Iowa Business Digest, Hickman says farm policy must consider such long-range farm problems as output that tends to outstrip consumption of farm products, the vulnerability of farming to industrial unemployment and an uneconomical allocation of agricultural resources.

The Digest is published by the university bureau of business and economic research.

Farm policy can be directed to-

ward either supporting farm prices of farm income, Hickman states. In view of the long-range farm problems, income support seem the most favorable. The levels of support should not be so high or so rigid as to aggravate the long-range problems, he warns.

If consumption is to be encouraged, farm income supports are desirable since price supports "usually lead to pricing many commodities above normal market levels." If price supports are used, they should be sensitive to shifts in demand as well as supply.

Although agriculture is vulnerable to industrial depression, Hickman sees little evidence that general depression and unemployment start on the farm.

Keeping farm prices artificially high would tend to undercut urban

consumption, misallocate resources and outprice American farm products on world markets. Again, income supports seem preferable.

Either price or income supports could retain excess resources within farming, with damaging results, Hickman observes. But price supports seem more likely to handicap shifts in resources.

He declares "Whatever the specific criterion, it thus appears that income goals are generally preferable to price goals; supports should be moderate in level and scope; flexibility is of first importance; methods of support should include new emphasis upon long-range farm measures and policy outside of agriculture, and either direct income payment or truly flexible price supports could be employed.

"In reshaping farm policy, both the long-range interests of the farmer and the well-being of the economy must be considered," Hickman concludes.

Alfalfa Banquet Here Tuesday Evening

Monroe county town and farm families will hold their biggest annual get-together, the Alfalfa Banquet, at Albia High school field house Tuesday evening.

A program of variety entertainment and presentation of Alfalfa Awards by Iowa Agriculture Secretary Harry Linn will follow the dinner.

November 14, 1949

November 14, 1949

Iowa's Oat Rust May Be Heavy Next Year, Pathologist Says

Recommends Shift In Varieties for Coming Season

To Cherokee, Colo Or Nemaha Instead Of All Clinton.

There's a possibility of rust hitting Iowa's oat crop in 1950. That's why Iowa State College is recommending a shift of some oat acreage to Cherokee, Nemaha or Colo next spring.

Race 45 of crown rust is the one feared. It didn't hurt much in 1947 and 1948, but was found in Iowa's oat fields last summer. Race 45 along with a few other races of crown rust caused estimated damage last year of 10 to 15 percent, according to Arden Sherf, extension plant pathologist at Iowa State College.

Clinton oats and its close relatives are susceptible to race 45 of crown rust. In 1948 and last year 95 percent of the Iowa oat acreage was seeded to those varieties.

Don't Quit Clinton

The college men do not recommend quitting Clinton. It has too many good qualities. What is being suggested is that farmers seed a few acres to Cherokee, Nemaha or Colo, which have shown considerable resistance or tolerance to race 45. This procedure would help offset the possibility of rust causing severe losses to the entire oat crop, according to Sherf.

While Cherokee, Nemaha and Colo are not completely resistant to the rusts, they stand up better under race 45 than do Clinton and other Bond strains.

Shelby, the new variety released under contract this year to a few farmers for seed increase, is expected to help ward off race 45. Shelby is a high yielder, has shown considerable tolerance to race 45 and a little more resistance to smut than Clinton. However, seed of Shelby is not available for seeding next year.

Change to Meet Diseases

Since 1941 Iowa farmers have faithfully followed the recommended oat variety changes made necessary by fungus diseases, according to Sherf. Since 1941, farmers have changed varieties twice. In 1941 such varieties as Boone, Tama, Cedar, Control and Vicland were introduced to stave off losses from most rusts and smuts. In 1946-47, Helminthosporium blight struck these varieties and farmers shifted to Clinton, Benton and similar varieties resistant to the blight.

When Clinton was released, oat breeders and plant pathologists explained that it was susceptible to a few races of crown rust, especially race 45 which at that time was of very minor importance. However, now that it is building up, another shift in oats varieties seems likely in the next several years, according to Sherf.

Announce Discoveries In Horticulture

Several recent discoveries and developments in the field of horticulture promise more efficiency in production and breeding, and lower prices for consumers.

Mason Reger, extension horticulturist at Iowa State College, made this observation while attending the horticulture science meetings at Milwaukee.

A Michigan State College horticulturist has developed a growth-suppressing hormone, florigen, that stimulates reproductive development. It is the opposite of 2,4-D, a growth-producing hormone. Florigen applied at various rates can produce either male or female flowers, or both. Such a chemical might be useful in hybridizing plants or in other plant breeding work.

Dr. Boyoucos, another Michigan horticulturist, has developed a moisture reader for use in irrigating greenhouse crops. The device not only reads the moisture in the ground, but by means of various gauges and switches it turns on the water and keeps it running until the correct amount is applied.

Another development is a hormone spray for apples that can be applied 20 to 30 days after blossoming to thin the fruit set.

November 28, 1949

December 1, 1949

Emphasizes Importance of Selecting Right Crop Variety

To Obtain Maximum Yields, Quality From the Soil

Reid Offers List Of Those Suited To Monroe Land.

By Lloyd M. Reid
Extension Director

Choosing the right variety of crop seed is an important part of a farmer's cropping plans for next spring.

Growing the crop varieties best suited to local conditions usually means a few more bushels in the bin, a few more tons of hay in the mow, and better quality crops.

The plant breeding programs carried out at the Iowa Experiment Station and other state stations have developed improved varieties of nearly all common farm crops. These improved varieties are tested in experimental plots and on farms in many parts of the state before they are recommended. This gives farmers a chance to compare different varieties under soil and climate conditions fairly similar to their own farms.

Based on these tests and observations, the following varieties are recommended for Monroe:

SOYBEANS—Adams, Lincoln and Hawkeye.

OATS—Reselect Clinton. (It is suggested that some acreage of Cherokee, Nemana or Colo be included in plantings as insurance against rust.) Shelby oats will be recommended as soon as there is seed produced for market.

SWEET CLOVER — Madrid and Late Flowering White.

LESPEDeza—Iowa No. 6.

RED CLOVER — Emerson and Midland.

WINTER WHEAT—Pawnee.

BROME GRASS—Fisher and Lincoln.

ALFALFA—Buffalo, Grimm and Northern Cannon for short rotations, Ranger for general use.

BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL — Broad-

Soil Conservation Meetings Set at State College

The fifth annual Soil Conservation Short Course for commissioners of Iowa's 96 Soil Conservation Districts will be held at Iowa State College Jan. 3 to 6.

The program will cut across several lines in the soil conservation program. It will cover problems in land management and soil conservation, forage utilization through livestock, land use adjustments, organizing human resources, district cooperation and administration, and soil conservation now or later.

Staff members of the college and off-campus speakers, all authorities in their respective fields, will be on the program. The evening of Jan. 4 will be devoted to a panel of radio and news editors.

One commissioner from each district will attend the short course as an official delegate. However, several commissioners from some districts will be on hand.

December 26, 1949

leaf type, local or domestic origin.

WHITE CLOVER — Ladino for most soils.

CORN—Check Iowa corn yield test bulletin available at county extension office.

The Monroe County Seed Distribution committee has a limited quantity of Adams soybeans and Reselect Clinton oats for distribution in the county. These varieties originated at Iowa State college and were grown by Monroe county farmers. Applications are now being received at the Farm Bureau office in Albia.

December 1, 1949

Charles Bettis 1949 Alfalfa King

Eight hundred of his town and country neighbors saw Charles Bettis, Troy township farmer, crowned 1949 Monroe county Alfalfa King at the conclusion of the annual Alfalfa Banquet program in Albia High school field house Tuesday evening.

Bettis received a traveling trophy, a plaque, \$15 in cash and congratulations from Harry Linn, Iowa secretary of agriculture.

The 1949 banquet equalled those unfolded before it in fun, food and good fellowship.

A new precedent was established when Mrs. Clint Swartz served as

toastmaster—first woman in the long history of the programs to carry that role. She made it a good precedent.

The entertainment highlight was a variety show presented by professional singers, dancers, instrumentalists, acrobats and ball bouncers.

The Farm Bureau and Chamber of Commerce co-operate in staging the banquet. Tuesday's welcome address was by Homer Berry, Bureau president. Others on the program were Extension Director Lloyd Reid, Hugh W. Lundy, Mrs. J. Logan Cain, Mona Kay Gushwa and the Rev. Harry Ryan.

Linn, who spoke briefly, praised

ed the spirit of the Alfalfa Banquet and commented favorably on the programs of Monroe county farm families to adapt their farming to the needs and potentials of their land.

Runnerup in the Alfalfa Contest was T. J. Luse. Others who placed were Floyd Bettis, third; Pat Coady, fourth; and Versal Barnes, fifth.

Fields were judged on the basis of conservation practices, soil improvement, percentage of stand, freedom from weeds and size of growth. The judge was Ralph Krenzin, Iowa State college agronomist.

Tests Reveal Best Wheat Varieties

Pawnee, Iohardi and Minter winter wheat varieties, which have been at or near the top in performance for several years, gave best yields in 1949 Iowa State College tests.

Pawnee gave its best yield in southern and central Iowa. Its performance in northern sections of the state was somewhat spotty due to winter killing at some locations, according to R. E. Atkins, college agronomist.

Iohardi yielded well in northern as well as in southern sections.

Minter, the third on the list of varieties recommended for Iowa, yielded slightly less than Pawnee and Iohardi.

Acreage Up

Winter wheat acreage in Iowa was above both the 1948 level and the 1938-47 average. Average yields were several bushels less than in 1948, however, and total production was below 1948 but well above the 10-year average. Of Iowa's wheat crop, 95 per cent or more is winter wheat.

Several factors limited yields of winter wheat this past season. In some areas where wheat stood under sheets of ice for long periods last winter, winter-killing was serious. Dry weather during May reduced yields, but Atkins points out that the hot weather of early July didn't damage winter wheat as it did oats, barley and spring wheat. Winter wheat was mature or nearly mature at that time. Leaf rust was another yield-reducing factor. It came in quite late, but still caused some damage.

Spring Wheat Low

Yields of all spring wheat varieties tested were very low this year. Atkins says that winter wheat will nearly always outyield spring-sown wheat by several bushels per acre, even in a season when both mature more or less normally. The early dry season and heavy leaf rust infection this year cut the yields of the later maturing spring wheat even more.

Mida and Rival were the better yielders among spring wheat varieties this year and they are believed to be the best adapted of the spring types for Iowa.

November 17, 1949

Term Ladino Clover Fit for All Iowa

Ladino clover will be included in Iowa State college recommendations for rotation seedings for pasture in all parts of Iowa in 1950.

Last year agronomists recommended ladino for eastern and northeastern Iowa. However, after observing its excellent performance this past summer in Iowa and other states, the agronomists feel that they may have been too conservative in previous recommendations. In view of its good showing, they're now recommending ladino in limited amounts for all parts of Iowa.

The comparatively new legume does especially well in eastern and northeastern Iowa. It is being recommended in other parts of the state at the rate of 1/2 pound per acre with bromegrass and alfalfa, and with timothy and red clover mixtures where meadows are to be used for pasture during or following

the first year.

Use in Rotation Seeding

Although ladino clover grows low and close to the ground it is finding increased use in rotation meadow seedings that are ultimately used for pasture, says H. D. Hughes, agronomist at Iowa State college.

He advises Iowa growers to buy only certified seed, since it is impossible to tell ladino clover seed from that of ordinary white clover.

Development and changes in recommendations of this giant white clover are coming at just the right time to offset a marked shortage of other legume seeds. Seed production has been low on most legumes and grasses this year and the carryover from other years is also small. Too, with a cut in corn acreage expected in 1950, hay and pasture crop expansion is expected to increase the demand for grass and legume seed.

Other Seed Scarce

While the 1949 timothy seed crop is 51 per cent larger than last year's, it is still classified as a small yield with current prices three times those of the 5-year average. The sweet-clover seed crop is the smallest on record while the 5 million pounds of bromegrass seed produced this year is approximately 52 per cent of the 1943-47 acreage. Red clover seed supplies are down again this year, with the

total figure down 13 per cent from last year's.

The bright spot in the legume seed picture is ladino clover—with the largest crop on record. A considerable amount of ladino has been grown on Iowa State College experimental farms and by farmers in the eastern part of the state. Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Ohio have grown the new legume with success under most of the combinations of soil and climatic conditions to be found in the Midwest.

Ladino clover was first imported from Italy about 1900 and is high-yielding, exceedingly palatable, and has a high protein content.

December 1, 1949

Contouring Profit Tied to Rotation

Rotation affects the returns a farmer can expect from contouring or terracing, according to Iowa State College studies made on the Soil Conservation Experimental Farm in Page County.

Largest increase in returns for either contouring or terracing seems to come with a corn-corn-oats-meadow-meadow rotation. This is probably because fertility rather than moisture is more nearly the limiting factor. The 5-year rotation includes more legumes than a corn-corn-oats-meadow rotation or a corn-oats-meadow rotation.

A corn-oats-meadow-meadow rotation includes a large acreage of meadow. But it evidently contains too few acres of corn to get the greatest dollar returns from increases in yields.

The most profitable rotation at either 1945 or 1937-41 prices was the 5-year corn-corn-oats-meadow-meadow rotation when contouring and terracing were used.

November 17, 1949

December 22, 1949

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Mike Heffron, Patton Other Members

O'Brien Starting Seventh Term on Committee.

Philip O'Brien, Jackson township farmer, was re-elected chairman of Monroe county's Production Marketing Administration committee Saturday.

He'll begin his seventh term as county committeeman Monday.

Elected to the committee with O'Brien during a convention of farmer-delegates from all Monroe county townships were Mike Heffron, Guilford township, and Don-zil Patton, Bluff Creek township.

Alternate members are Gus Luse and Roy Himelick.

Heffron and Patton succeed Pat Coady and Eon Lott, who announced prior to the convention they would not seek re-election. Coady served two and a half terms as committeeman. He completed the unexpired term of Arnold Anderson and was twice elected. Lott went on the committee in 1948 to wind up the term of Ray V. McCollum, and was elected for the 1949 term.

As alternates Luse and Himelick succeed James Lahart and Guy Bates.

There were several candidates for the committee jobs. The new members, Heffron and Patton, have served as community committeemen. Heffron is one of Monroe county's pioneer conservation farmers. His farm has one of the first terraces constructed in the county, and he has a dam on his place which dates back to CCC days. Patton also is a conservation farmer, and one of the county's top-ranking poultrymen.

The PMA committee has charge of price supporting grain loans, conservation practice payments, distribution of fertilizer materials and several other farm programs. One of its major 1949 tasks is expected to be the restoration of corn allotments.

The county convention was preceded by community meetings at which farmers elected their local committees and convention delegates. Here are the results of township sessions held Thursday and Friday.

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Albert DeGous, county convention delegate; Wilbur O. Berry, alternate delegate; Albert DeGous, community committee chairman; Wilbur O. Berry, vice chairman; Martin R. Roberts, regular member; Fred Lobberecht, first alternate; Clifford W. Belzer, second alternate; Roy F. Himelick, secretary to community committee.

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EDITORIALS

What About Conservation Farmers?

It depends upon your point of view. If you're viewing it from an international or world viewpoint, there's no such a thing as a farm surplus.

If you view it from the standpoint of this country alone, we do have a production surplus—or a lack of consumption perhaps. Much as one hates to treat this problem from a national standpoint, seemingly we must regard the current problem as a surplus until we can devise some way of equalizing the distribution and feeding those portions of the world which are unable to feed themselves.

So, while we continue to produce and produce, we set up price supports in order that our increasing production may not cause the price to drop too far and affect our national economy. And during times of excessive surplus we attempt to control it by setting up allocations and telling the farmers that they must cut their plantings of certain crops.

Now the Department of Agriculture is considering reduction of acreages on certain crops for the coming year. One or two crop reductions have been announced, but thus far none of them have affected the Iowa farmer. However, local agriculture officers are going on the assumption that there will be acreage reductions and most of the farmers are going on the same assumption.

In the method of reduction of the acreages on the crops that are in surplus there seems to be a bit of disagreement, however, and it will not be clarified until specific directives come from the Department of Agriculture. But there are those who are wondering how these reductions will fit into the over-all conservation picture in Monroe and other counties.

There is little doubt in the minds of those familiar with Monroe county agriculture, that this county can stand reductions in corn acres for instance. There are a good many acres in the county which are planted in corn—on land which is not in the least suited for a row crop. When it comes to actual bushels, little of the corn raised in Monroe county will figure in the amount reaching the market, since most of it is fed on the farm.

But, if acreages in corn, as an example, are reduced, is it to be a flat reduction straight across the board for each farmer? This is a question which the local PMA committees must consider, and lacking further directives from their higher headquarters that will probably be their decision.

What happens then to the farmer,

who through his painstaking care of the soil, through his adoption of conservation practices, through a well-planned conservation program, has voluntarily reduced his corn acreage over a period of years.

Take as an example a farmer who may have had 50 acres in corn over a period of years. If this is used as the base and there's a flat reduction he may plant only perhaps 40 acres this year. But his crop rotation plan doesn't call for that amount. So he's well within his allotment. But next year the rotation plan calls for 60 acres of corn. Can he plant it? Or is the acreage allotment going to be applied straight across the board and disrupt the program which he and other farmers have carefully built up, or are in the process of building.

Or perhaps we could cite the case of the farmer who during the past few years has cared little about the cost as far as his land is concerned. He's put every available foot of ground in corn or cultivated row crops and has perhaps done untold damage to his farm, but has made high profits for himself.

If you use the same base for this type of farmer he'll find himself with a comparatively high acreage allotment and perhaps immediately will profit much more than the farmer who has been doing a conscientious job of conserving his soil.

It's a matter of record that on the over 200 farms in Monroe county which have adopted conservation plans the crop acreage has been reduced considerably. On the average 17 per cent more land has been placed in pasture. It would seem that these farmers have themselves voluntarily cut their acreages and are doing a good job of conservation farming. Are we going to upset all of their efforts?

Conservation is a long range program. It's a program concerned with today's farm problems, yes, but also concerned with farm problems 25 or 50 years from now. It doesn't seem quite logical that we would upset a long range program to take care of our short-term needs.

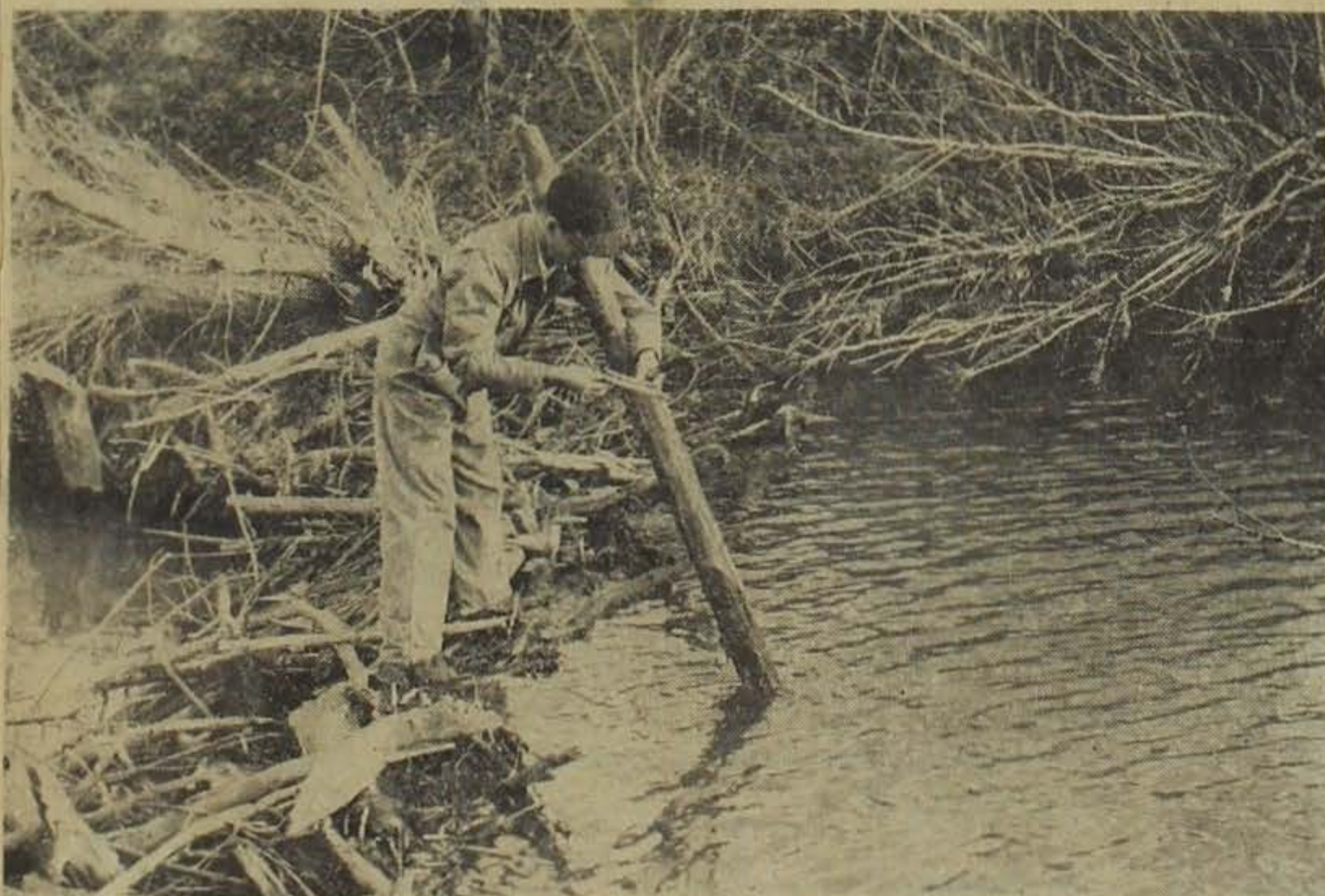
It would seem that when the Department of Agriculture considers the acreage reductions and the crop controls it would also consider the voluntary reductions already made through the planning of its own Soil Conservation Service. We hope the Department does consider this and that it will issue specific directives to its county PMA committees, which will then act in accordance with these directives.

December 8, 1949

Best Dam Builder in County -- That's Beaver



One of Monroe county's major 1949 construction projects is this dam, built by beavers at a turn in Cedar Creek on the George Adams farm west of Albia. It is one of two built by the sharp-toothed engineers to create a deep pool for their home.



—Photo by Robbie Norberg

The other dam's stability is demonstrated by John Botts, SCS conservation aid for the Monroe Soils District, who stands on it near midstream while inspecting a couple of sticks the beavers put into the construction. One cannot legally trap beavers. There was an open season in 33 Iowa counties this year, for the first time in 75, but it closed Wednesday.

Borer Control On Program In January

Hay and Grain First Big '50 Farm Event.

Monroe county's second annual Grain and Hay Show will be the first major agricultural event of 1950.

Scheduled for Jan. 11 at Farm Bureau Hall, the show will include an agronomy program covering borer control methods, soil sampling, use of fertilizers and pasture improvement.

Visiting experts will be Earl Raun, Iowa extension service entomologist, and Ralph Krenzlin, extension agronomist. Local agricultural leaders with program roles include Phil O'Brien, PMA chairman, and Harold Anderson, SCS farm planner for the Monroe Soils District.

Monroe county farmers will compete for cash and hybrid seed corn prizes in the grain and hay competition. The awards are provided by the Albia Chamber of Commerce and seed corn dealers.

Here's the program:

10 a.m.—Exhibit entries received.

10:15—Corn Borer Control Methods. Results of work during 1949. Earl Raun, extension entomologist.

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December 26, 1949

December 8, 1949

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December 8, 1949

Take Another Good Look at Crop

Corn Yields Almost Doubled on Some Iowa Farms

Calls Attention To Experimental Farm Studies.

Monroe county farmers may profit by taking another good look at the crop rotation they are following and see whether it is giving as high a yield of corn as the farm is producing, Lloyd M. Reid, county extension director, said today.

He pointed out that crop rotation studies conducted over a period of years by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station show that corn yields can be almost doubled on some Iowa farms, if a well-planned rotation is used.

In the tests, continuous corn yielded 38 bushels per acre for the 5-year period of 1942 to 1946. In 1947, the yield dropped to 22 bushels per acre and in 1948 the yield was 44 bushels. First year corn grown in a corn-corn-oats and meadow rotation yielded 62 bushels per acre over the 5-year period and 82 bushels per acre in 1948. The plots received no fertilizer.

Test plots receiving manure at the rate of two tons per acre year and lime as it was needed showed somewhat different results. For the 5-year period, continuous corn averaged 54 bushels per acre as compared to 86 bushels per acre for first year corn in a 4-year rotation. In 1948, continuous corn showed a yield of 64 bushels while corn grown in the 4-year rotation averaged 104 bushels per acre.

Raising corn in a good rotation will pay bigger dividends in a bad year than in a good year, Reid pointed out. Corn suffered from adverse weather conditions in 1947. A wet spring followed by a hot, dry summer slashed yields. Corn raised in a 4-year rotation that year came through the growing season in much better shape than corn grown continuously on the same ground.

Reid said that no one rotation will fit the needs of every farm. Each farmer should fit his rotation to his soil and farming system. This winter is a good time to look over your rotation to see how well its doing the job, so you can plan changes before you're ready to move into fields next spring.

December 19, 1949

Farm Plan Goal, 35, Hit by Monroe's Soil District

Work Group Parley For 4 Counties in Albia Jan. 12.

Monroe county Soil District commissioners Wednesday approved nine farm conservation plans, boosting the total for the year to 35—the goal fixed for 1949.

The commissioners—James Foster, Alton Wilcox and Sterling Martin—also approved two applications for district assistance in GI Group 3. Farm plans approved are those of:

Dean Herteen, owner-operator, 79 acres, Group 19; Homer D. Clark, owner-operator, 392 acres, Group 17; Frank V. Cook, owner, and Glen P. Cook, operator, 160 acres, Group 18; A. Ralph Tubaugh, owner-operator, 171 acres, Group 19; Harbld P. Parker, owner-operator, 140 acres, GI Group 3; W. J. Klingman, owner-operator, 77 acres, GI Group 3; Mrs. Alice Stason, owner, and Earl Jenkins, operator, 180 acres, Group 11; Mrs. Laura Besco, owner, M. E. McLaughlin, agent, and Claude Rogers, operator, 171 acres, Group 11.

—Continued on Page 2

Soil District--

—Continued from Page 1

acres in Group 5; Albert Sulentic, owner-operator, 255 acres, GI Group 1.

The newly-approved plans cover 1,585 acres.

During the Wednesday session plans were made for a Work Group conference here Jan. 12, to be attended by district commissioners, SCS personnel and extension directors of Wapello, Davis, Appanoose and Monroe counties. Representatives of the State Conservation committee and Iowa extension service will participate in the program, and there'll be a luncheon at Forgy Tea Room. Alton Wilcox will report for the Monroe district during the parley.

The commissioners voted during Wednesday's meeting to ask authorization from the State Conservation committee for purchase of a terracing machine.

December 29, 1949

Rotations, Reid Suggests

Show Prize Donors Listed by Reid

Six Monroe county seed corn dealers are contributing awards for the 1949 Monroe County Hay and Grain Show, it was announced by Extension Director Lloyd Reid.

Prize donors include Ludie Kristoff, D. J. Dinneen and Son, James Foster, John Goode, Roy Mahin and Herbert Bettis.

The show, sponsored by the Farm Bureau and Albia Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for Jan. 11 at Farm Bureau Hall. The Chamber of Commerce is contributing cash awards.

An educational program will be included with judging of hay and grain exhibits and presentation of prizes. It will cover borer control methods, soil sampling, use of fertilizers and pasture improvement. Here's the program:

10 a.m.—Exhibit entries received.

10:15—Corn Borer Control Methods. Results of work during 1949. Earl Raun, extension entomologist.

11:30—Adjourn for lunch. Judging of exhibits.

1:15 p.m.—Soil Sampling Program. Phil O'Brien, PMA chairman.

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December 29, 1949

Will Name Officers For USDA Group

Monroe county's USDA Council will meet Friday at 3 p.m. at PMA headquarters, it was announced by Secretary Lloyd Reid.

Principal business will be election of officers for 1950. Now chairman of the organization, which serves as a coordinating agency for the various agricultural organizations operating in the county, is Howard Willson. He's Albia High school's vocational agriculture director. Vice chairman is S. T. Runkel, district SCS conservationist. Reid is county agricultural extension director.

December 29, 1949

Political Pot Boils

Roy Himelick Legislative Candidate

**Seeks Democratic
Bid for Job Now
Held by Foster.**

Roy Himelick, Pleasant township farmer, will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for state representative from Monroe county.

Himelick Wednesday requested nomination papers from the secretary of state.

His is the first formal entry into Monroe county's 1950 political races.

Monroe county had no Democratic candidate for state representative in 1948. James Foster was elected, but won't seek the office again. He's now a member of the State Conservation committee.

Himelick, 51, is a member of a pioneer Monroe county family. The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Himelick, he was born on the farm where he now lives. His mother was born in the same neighborhood, and his father came there from Indiana in early youth.

Himelick is married and has one son, Marlin. In addition to operating an 80-acre farm he also has a machine shop.

Long prominent in the Monroe county Farm Bureau, Himelick is now the organization's voting delegate. He'll resign that post to make the campaign for the legislature.

He has served as president of his local school board, as community PMA committeeman, and as a member of the Farmers Home Administration advisory committee for Monroe county. He is Pleasant township clerk, and a member of the board of trustees of Pleasant Corners church.

Himelick's farm is included in Group 1 of the Monroe county Soils district—the first group organized in the county.

January 19, 1950

Elect John Botts Chairman Of County USDA Council

John Botts conservation aid for the Monroe county Soils District, was elected chairman of the United States Department of Agriculture Council at the organization's annual meeting Friday.

Other officers for 1950 are Phil O'Brien, vice chairman, and James Nash, secretary. O'Brien is Production and Marketing committee chairman, and Nash is a member of the faculty of the GI Farm Training school.

As chairman Botts succeeds Howard Willson, Albia High school vocational agriculture director.

The USDA Council is an informal, co-ordinating agency for the various agricultural organizations of the county.

A review of 1949 activities was among the highlights of Friday's session. These included field days, tours, contour layout training schools, fertilizer trials, forage variety trials, window displays, special 4-H and FFA conservation tours and assisting with the Field Day at the Albia Pasture Farm.

The 1950 program will be developed during a meeting scheduled Jan. 27.

December January 2, 1950

Treating Seed Pays Pathologist Says

It will pay you to treat small grain and flax seed and the best time to do it is when the seed is cleaned this winter, according to A. F. Sherf, plant pathologist at Iowa State College.

Oat yield tests show that treating seed has increased yields on an average of 3 bushels an acre. The 3-bushel figure is the average increase obtained in more than 10,000 comparisons made by Iowa State College since seed treating became a recommended practice.

Improves Stand

The reason for higher yields is that treating produces better stands and protects the stand from some plant diseases. Chemicals applied uniformly on seed protect it from seed rotting organisms during the critical period of germination and protects plants from diseases such as smuts carried on the seed which cause trouble later on.

For oats, barley and wheat, Sherf recommends treatment with Cere-

san at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce per bushel. However, he points out that this rate should be cut to $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce per bushel if treated oats are to be stored for more than 3 months before seeding.

Amount to Use

Recommended treatment for flax is 1 ounce of Ceresan per bushel for brown seeded varieties and $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces per bushel for golden seeded varieties.

Treat only as much grain as will be needed for seed. Chemically treated grain should not be fed to livestock in any amounts because of danger of poisoning, Sherf cautions.

He also advises against inhaling any of the dust while treating seed. Good ventilation and a dust mask can head off any irritations and unpleasant effects that the chemical might cause.

January 19, 1950

No Acreage Quotas For '50 Soybeans

Acreage allotments will not be established for soybeans this year, according to information received at PMA headquarters here.

Acreage allotments haven't been used for beans, but it had been predicted they might be established this year by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan.

Special legislation would have been necessary to put an allotment program into effect for soybeans, it was indicated. The agricultural act of 1949 doesn't include any legislative guides or specific provisions for such allotments, like those set up for corn, wheat, cotton and other "basic" commodities.

The carryover of old-crop soybeans last Oct. 1, before the 1949 crop was harvested, amounted to around 3 million bushels. This represented about 1.5 per cent of the annual production in 1948-49—a little above 220 million bushels each year. This carryover of 3 million bushels is less than half the average carryover of around six and one-half million bushels for the years 1944-48, a period of heavy demand.

Based on indicated domestic and export demand during the present marketing year, it is not anticipated that the carryover next Oct. 1 will be materially larger than the 3 million bushels carried over last fall.

February 20, 1950

Farm Crop Production Will Decline While Livestock Output Climbs, Magazine Says

Farm crop production will decline in 1950 while the output of livestock products will be up according to Successful Farming magazine.

In a summary of information on farm conditions, production, markets and income prospects in its January issue, the magazine says government price supports will be lower for most field crops, eggs and possibly for hogs after March 31.

Market prices for most farm products will be near support levels. Prices farmers pay will be some lower than in 1949. Farm land prices will be lower.

Net farm income is expected to be two and a half times the 1935-1939 figure in spite of an expected 10 per cent decline in cash receipts in 1950, as compared to 1949.

For the first time since the end of World War II, farmers will be required to comply with acreage allotments in order to get price supports for the principal field crops. Acreage cuts in 1950 will apply

to all the basic crops—wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, rice and peanuts. Allotments are expected on a number of non-basic crops as well.

Average hog weights are expected to be unusually heavy in January, February and March, which is sure to put a discount on heavy hogs, according to the magazine.

If hog prices are at or near support levels later in 1950 or by 1951, many farmers will feed their hogs longer than normal, knowing the support level will rise. This will tend to increase the total production of pork and lard, depress the general price level for hogs later in the winter and increase discounts for heavy hogs later in the season.

Consumer demand for potatoes continues to decline and consumption may be only a little more than 100 pounds per person in 1950 compared to 130 pounds 10 years ago. The national potato production allotment for 1950 is 335 million bushels, 50 million below the 1949 output and the smallest since 1936.

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Mothers, Dads Guests of FFA at Banquet

Approximately 150 Future Farmers of America and their mothers, dads and other guests attended the sixth annual FFA Parent and Son banquet program at Albia High school Wednesday evening.

A program of speeches and entertainment was followed by square dancing.

Master of ceremonies for the program was Duane Wilson, president of the Albia High vocational agriculture department's FFA chapter, a youngster now in his thirteenth year of school without a single absence mark against his record.

Speakers included Superintendent of Schools Wiley W. Hartzell; Gerald Barton of Des Moines, executive secretary for the Iowa Future Farmers organization; Dale Sullivan and Roland Fisher, members of the local chapter; and three past presidents of the chapter — Dean Stocker, Donald Patton, and Jack Chamberlain.

Entertainment was presented by Richard Teele, trombone soloist, and Bill Stuchel, vocalist.

Hartzell told the students and

their parents that "here in Albia we have an obligation as a county seat to provide vocational training for the farm youth of our community, and we're moving ahead with a bigger and better program."

The board of education, he added, realizes that farming is becoming more and more a very complex field, and that more training for young people who are choosing that way of life is imperative.

Barton and the past FFA presidents had as their theme "Establishment in Farming."

Barton discussed training; Stocker, financing; Patton, starting a home; and Chamberlain, type of farming.

Barton told how experience in Future Farmers develops better citizens as well as highly skilled farmers.

Stocker, in citing some of the various paths to financing a farm enterprise, conceded that the easiest way for a young man to get started is "in partnership with dad."

A home, Patton, pointed out, "is

where each lives for the other and all live for God."

The young farmer, he advised, will do well to choose a wife who knows something about the business and is familiar with the peak periods of farm work. On the other hand the husband, in exchange for that understanding, should be familiar with household problems "and pitch in and dry the dishes now and then."

Patton, who has been married about two years, had a tip on home furnishing, too. Don't furnish the living room first, he advised, and wind up with nothing but a card table on which to serve food when the threshing crew arrives.

Chamberlain put emphasis on conservation farming for this area, describing it as "common sense farming."

Invocation was by Dr. G. S. Bruland of the Albia Methodist church.

Albia has one of the state's largest FFA chapters. The adviser is Howard Willson, vocational agriculture director.

Young Men Seeking Farms of Their Own Said UP Against Tough Proposition

Young men who want to own farms face a tough proposition, unless they can get outside help.

So says a circular published jointly to the agricultural experiment stations of 13 midwestern states, including Iowa. Called "Can You Own Your Farm?" the circular discusses farm ownership in the Midwest.

For several reasons, farm ownership is more difficult to achieve than ever. Competition for farms is

strong, both among farmers and between farmers and city people who buy land for investment.

Price Now High

Land prices are high—in the Midwest about double the prices of 1935-39—and farms are larger. Also, livestock, machinery and other equipment are costly. So it now requires a great deal of capital to start farming, if the farmer is to

to succeed.

The trend of the midwest is toward fewer and larger farms. A good many landowners have several farms, and there is some tendency to combine farms into large ownership units. Six percent of the landlords own nearly a fifth of all the land held by landlords.

"Ladder" Little Used

The "agricultural ladder" has changed. It is next to impossible to start out as a hired man or renter and finally own a farm. Only two owners out of every hundred climbed the ladder from farm laborer to tenant to owner without the help of gifts, inheritance or non-farm work. More than two out of five farm owners received family help in buying land.

Getting in with a landowner on a share basis may be one way to get together some money with which to buy land. Another way is to work off the farm in industry, business or in a salaried job.

February 16, 1950.

Boost Quality With Good Milkhouse

The better your milkhouse, the better your chances of a high dairy income in the years ahead, says C. H. Van Vlack, extension agricultural engineer at Iowa State College.

You need a grade-A milkhouse if you want to produce Grade A milk, he observes, explaining that clean milk and a well arranged milkhouse go hand in hand.

Size, location, interior arrangement and equipment are all big factors in planning a milkhouse, Van Vlack says. He thinks it's a good idea to consult your local milk inspector about rules and regulations before you draw up any definite plans.

Most milk regulations require that the milk be taken from the barn right after milking. Separating, cooling or storage of milk must be done in a special room outside the milking barn. That means the milkroom might be in a separate room within the barn or it might

be in another building, Van Vlack points out..

He says the main thing is to locate it so that it's handy but still properly isolated from the stable and the barnyard. If the milkhouse is attached to the barn, an open or ventilated passageway with self-closing doors should separate it from the stable.

Walls and ceilings of the milkhouse must be smooth, waterproof, suitable for painting and easy to clean. The floor needs to be made of smooth concrete with a 4-inch drain in the floor.

Van Vlack advises having the milkhouse well lighted, with screened windows which can be opened if necessary. Doors should be planned to open to the outside to help keep out flies.

Recommended equipment includes a divided wash sink, a source of heat for hot water and room heating, and a cooling tank large enough for both morning and evening milk.

February 16, 1950

Agricultural Grads Getting Good Jobs

Farms and farm managers in Iowa holding degrees from Iowa State College are increasing sharply. At the same time educational institutions, private industry and government agencies are absorbing ever-larger numbers of agricultural graduates from the college.

Large graduating classes in recent years have had little difficulty in finding suitable occupations.

Increasing numbers are going directly into farming, reflecting the fact that farming is more attractive today than it was 10 years ago, according to R. M. Vifquain, personnel officer in the Division of Agriculture.

Many Start Farming

The class of 1939 at Iowa State saw 25 graduates go directly into farming. In 1949 there were 75 who did so. (Many other agricultural graduates take up farming after spending a period in some other occupation in order to accumulate sufficient capital.

Educational work in high schools, colleges, universities and in the Extension Service still attracts a majority of the agricultural graduates. In 1939 there were 112 who entered this field. In 1949 there were 274.

Private industry absorbs another large group—108 in 1939, 171 in 1949.

The fourth field entered by agricultural students includes the governmental agencies—state and federal forestry services, Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, state agricultural departments, state highway commissions, state and city planning boards, to name but a few. Those who entered such agencies in 1939 totaled 39. Last year the

number increased to 70.

Train More to Teach

Those who went directly into farming were largely from the farm operations course which was first established as such at Iowa State in 1944. The course offers a 2-year program and a 4-year program. Others came chiefly from the college programs in animal husbandry, agronomy, agricultural economics and horticulture.

The ranks of those entering educational work were swelled by vocational education graduates whose number jumped from 35 in 1939 to 181 in 1949. Last year Iowa State sent 52 persons into vocational agriculture teaching in high schools and junior colleges, more than double the number sent in 1939. Those who took jobs teaching industrial arts numbered 45. In 1939 there was only one. Thirteen of the 1949 graduates started instructing G. I. classes in agriculture, an occupation unknown in 1939.

Leonard Flanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Flanders, is very ill with a throat infection.



Ag. Peters Shoe

Clyde Spry Seeks Republican Nomination for Secretary

Clyde Spry of Bronson last week announced his candidacy for Republican nomination to the office of Iowa Secretary of agriculture.

Spry for the past seven years has been assistant to Secretary of Agriculture Harry D. Linn.

His announcement was preceded by Linn's decision not to seek another term.

Prior to his appointment as assistant secretary, Spry served as a farmer member of the State Soil Conservation committee. He was appointed to the committee by Governor George A. Wilson in 1939. Spry also served as Soil Conservation committee secretary, and as a member of the Flood Control committee under Governors Hickel and Blue.

Spry farmed in Henry, Monona and Woodbury counties for 20 years and was active in Farm Bureau, serving the farm organization as a fieldman for two years.

Born in Henry county, he was educated in Mount Pleasant and Ottumwa schools. He has two sons, both married. He has been a life-long Republican, serving as precinct committeeman and as delegate to county and state conventions.

He is a member of Westminster United Presbyterian church and a member of the Polk county chapter of the Isaac Walton league.

Spry said he will continue to



work for the interests of all Iowa citizens. His announcement concluded: "The program of soil and water conservation is of paramount interest to all the people. The protection of our land is most essential, for that is the vital part of our existence and the base on which taxes are founded. Animal health and crops grown on good soils have much to do with human health and nutrition. Tying it all together, the department serves the producer, the processor, the retailer and the consumer."

February 16, 1950

February 16, 1950

'Give Too Much Attention to Trademarks, Not Enough to Beef Cattle Usefulness'

Let us quit acting as if legs on beef cattle are something to be ashamed of, as our grandmothers used to feel about ankles, and focus attention on the ability of purebred livestock to produce better steaks and milk more efficiently.

That's the advice to cattle breeders sounded by Successful Farming magazine. Writing in the February issue, Editor Kirk Fox says:

"In the last thirty years, there has been too much attention given to maintaining the trade marks of the specific breed—and not enough to the usefulness of the breed in the hands of the commercial farmer."

Declaring that Successful Farming is aware of the "tremendous contribution made to American agriculture by the breeder of purebred livestock, Fox recognizes we must have this seed stock from which to start any system of livestock improvement.

"But with all this talk about a return to grass farming, it occurs to me that possibly legs under a critter long enough to permit him to scramble after grass would be an important asset.

"Whether farm animals have two

rings or three around their tails or necks will not impress us—unless such trademarks signify actual efficiency," he adds.

"The times call for boldness among livestock breeders," Fox says, continuing:

"Certainly all the superior germ plasm in the world has not been brought to the United States yet. Many believe we have exhausted the possibilities of Europe. But, after all, that is only a small spot as world livestock possibilities go. We need import and also concentration

of the valuable material already at hand.

"In general, we are in full agreement with the producers of purebred livestock, except that we think they should be doing more. We have criticisms, though, mainly aimed at attempts to sell—for breeding stock—too high a percentage of the total animals produced.

"We congratulate the swine breed associations for their courage in stimulating production records for sows and litters. The breeders of purebred dairy cattle are boldly accepting new programs for the improvement of their animals. The beef cattle men must come to the programs.

"This is no time for vested interests to function," Fox concludes.

Forester Will Have Office in Albia

The Iowa Conservation commission has arranged to place a forestry fieldman here, it was reported today.

He'll have headquarters in the post office, and will serve Monroe, Lucas, Appanoose and Wayne counties.

The state commission is operating the project in cooperation with the United States Forest Service.

Soils Meeting Set For City March 15

James Wallace, manager of the Iowa State College Foundation Farms will be principal speaker March 15 at the annual meeting of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District.

February 20, 1950

February 13, 1950

February 16, 1950

May Pay Farmers to Use More Fertilizer In 1950 Even Though Prices Advance

It may pay farmers to use more fertilizer in 1950 even though prices of many things they have to sell are going down and fertilizer will cost about the same as this past year.

Each year for the past several years, farmers have used about 10 per cent more fertilizer than the

year before. Year by year they have had to pay more for the fertilizer as they have for most things they have bought. Some farmers may be thinking of leaving fertilizer out of their 1950 crop plans in an effort to cut farm production costs.

Francis Kutish, Iowa State col-

lege extension economist, thinks that leaving fertilizer out of cropping practices may cut profits more than costs. He says that many farmers over the state can use more fertilizer profitably, especially on feed crops, pastures and other crops that haven't had much fertilizer the past few years.

How much fertilizer farmers can use to advantage differs from farm to farm. Kutish cautions farmers to carefully calculate costs and returns from the use of fertilizer, how much it costs to apply, and

the cost of harvesting the extra yield it will produce. Then consider the additional returns from the crop on which you apply fertilizer. Kutish also says to figure the extra returns fertilizer, especially phosphate, will give in later years.

He suggests that farmers talk over the problem with county extension directors and have soil tests made. Inefficient use of fertilizer this year may shrink farm profits.

January 5, 1950

A Jan. 10 Deadline For Soils Money

Monroe county farmers have until Jan. 10 to qualify for soil building practice payments under the 1949 PMA program. It was announced by the county PMA committee today.

The final date for carrying out soil building practices for 1949 was Dec. 31. Farmers have until Jan. 10 to sign compliance papers and file evidence supporting completion of the practices.

In the event compliance papers and evidence aren't submitted by the deadline date, such practices will be considered not completed and money allocated for them will be shifted to other farms, it was explained.

Simply signing compliance papers isn't sufficient qualification in most instances, committee members pointed out. Substantiating evidence includes receipts for cash lime or phosphate and dirt moving.

January 5, 1950

Planning Group 20 Meets This Week

The Monroe county Soil District's twentieth farm conservation planning group will start functioning this week, it was announced by Farm Planner Harold Anderson.

Located in Monroe township, the group has 19 members. The meeting will be Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Blue Front school house.

Members are:

John Van Zante, Carl Van Zante, Lester White, Ralph Shelquist, Kenneth C. Johnson, Zell C. Callen, William Hagerman, Arlin Hagerman, James F. Bennett, Donald McCloud, Frank M. Wilson, Ray McCloud, Harry Woodward, Frank Woodward, Harold Mason, George McCombs, Iva Turner, Wayne Clark and Warren Rouse.

January 9, 1950

Monroe Keeps Soil-- Pace in Soil Protection

2,341 Acres Under Contour During '49 Crop Year.

Achievements in the soil conservation program of Iowa snowballed to a new high during 1949 when farmers of this state surpassed their accomplishments for the preceding year by a full 18 per cent to set a new all-time record in the amount of conservation work actually applied on farmland.

Monroe County Soil Conservation District farmers easily kept pace with the state-wide speed-up. Harold M. Anderson, local technician of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, reported.

"In this district," Anderson said, "many farmers did an outstanding job during the past year. However, both James W. Foster, chairman of our local board, and I are expecting even greater accomplishments for 1950. Soil conservation is a program which snowballs, gaining momentum and size as it rolls along."

As an example of what has been accomplished, Monroe district co-operators during 1949 developed 33 complete farm conservation plans every one of which is geared to the natural capabilities of the land and designed to fit a particular farm, acre by acre, Anderson reported.

"They also built 11.39 miles

—Continued on Page 2

of terraces, placed 2341 acres under contour cultivation, constructed 5.72 miles of diversion dikes, built 34 farm ponds and established 39,800 lineal feet of grassed waterways."

Reports on progress for the state at large have just been made public by Frank H. Mendell, state conservationist at Ames.

"Our reports from farmers show that 1949 was a banner year for soil conservation in Iowa," Mendell said. "In addition to showing an increase of 18 per cent in application over 1948, farmers made an increase of 19 per cent in the number of farm plans which they developed during 1949 with the necessary technical assistance made available by our Service through districts. Much of the improvements in land use provided for in these plans will show in their accomplishments for 1950."

By the close of 1949, Mendell said, farmers of this state had organized 96 soil conservation districts covering 33,260,000 acres of land. At that time 18,433 farmers of the state had developed complete farm conservation plans of which 3,692 were developed during the year just past. Local representatives of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service also gave technical assistance to 2,590 other farmers with simple practices which they will later develop into complete farm conservation plans.

During 1949, Mendell's report shows, farmers cooperating with districts put 274,295 additional acres under contour cultivation, added 27,400 acres strip cropping, improved 11,000 acres of pasture, built 573 farm ponds, 2,316 miles of terraces and drained 21,300 acres. Most of the land drained was already being farmed, Mendell explained, but production was badly reduced by lack of drainage. And to develop better water disposal systems on their land, farmers of the state constructed 4,000,000 lineal feet of grass waterways and terrace outlets during the year.

Nor was the new impetus in soil conservation limited to Iowa alone.

At Milwaukee which is regional headquarters for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in eight states, including Iowa, R. H. Musser said the speed-up trend was general. Musser, who directs the SCS program for the entire region, reported farmers of the eight states have now organized 499 soil conservation districts, an increase of 44 during 1949.

A new trend among farmers of working in neighborhood groups to solve mutual erosion problems with technical assistance for the SCS, will have an even stronger bearing on future progress, Musser predicted.

In the eight states 94,163 farmers have now developed complete farm conservation plans based on land capabilities, Musser reported, and these cover more than 15 million acres of the nation's best cropland. These farmers are now cultivating two and a half million acres on the contour, have strip cropped more than a million acres, have improved a half million acres of pasture, have developed 18,000 acres for wildlife, have planted 77,000 acres to trees, and have built 46,000 miles of terraces.

"These are only some of the practices," Musser said, "which go to make up a complete farm conservation plan. Such plans are designed by each farm, acre by acre. These cornbelt farmers deserve praise for their accomplishment during the past year but from the present trend we are predicting even better progress in 1950."

January 12, 1950

Women and Conservation--

A man who has to do with farm planning for the future was around the other day, and reported some of his findings.

Most farm families are planning unselfishly. They want modern homes, naturally, with electricity and running water and central heating. They want stability in the agricultural economy. But, and this is important, they want a better community life—which means they want the good life for everyone.

In that list of objectives it is easy to see the guiding hands of women. They're concerned about schools and churches and cultural activities for the group, as well as the individual. That has always been typical of women.

About the same time a man came around who has to do with conservation of soil resources. And he has an idea. He thinks progress in conservation farming will be greater if women are given greater opportunity to participate in the planning and in the programs.

He's so right.

Modern farm homes, stability in the economy, and better community life are rooted in good use of the land . . . because poor land and poor people are inseparable.

It doesn't take the average farm homemaker a minute to see the tie-up between increased crop and pasture yields and that new washing machine, a remodeled kitchen or a bathroom.

It doesn't take the average farm homemaker long to see there's a relationship between family security and better roads, schools and churches—because security for the family invariably is reflected in greater concern for group security.

It just comes naturally for a woman to know that her children will find farming a good way of life if the farm itself is good—and soil conservation practices are wrapped tightly into that situation.

Women think in terms of food—farm men too often think in terms of feed. The homemaker knows what it takes in the way of food to keep a family healthy and strong—and it is just a step away to the realization that it takes good food for good plants, and there you have conservation fitting in again.

Get women into this conservation picture and go to town with better and more profitable management of the land?

You know it.

January 16, 1950

January 16, 1950

Gives Report On Control Of Pests

The only sure control for corn borers is chemical treatment, Monroe county farmers were told last week by Carl Blickenstaff, assistant Iowa extension service entomologist.

Blickenstaff was among speakers at the 1950 Hay and Grain Show and Agronomy meeting in Farm Bureau Hall, attended by more than 100 farmers.

The entomologist reported on experiments in Howard county which revealed that treatment applied with a high-gallonage-high-pressure sprayer increased yield of corn over a check plot in the same field by 19 bushels per acre. Low-gallonage-low-pressure spraying gave a 17.5 bushels increase, while aerial spraying resulted in a yield boost of 15 bushels per acre.

M. E. Boardman of Blakesburg carried away a top share of awards in the Hay and Grain Show. He exhibited the best 10 ears of corn, the best basket of ears and was third in the number of classes entered.

Premiums included hybrid seed corn, given by local distributors, and cash provided by the Albia Chamber of Commerce.

The agronomy discussions, in addition to borer control, covered soils sampling, fertilizers and pasture improvement.

Lime and fertilizer application earnings under the PMA program will be tied to needs demonstrated by soils sampling, Phil O'Brien, county PMA committee chairman, indicated.

Ralph Krenzin, extension service agronomist, reviewed fertilizers, grass mixtures and crop rotations which will contribute most to a soil building program.

Harold Anderson, SCS farm planner, was leader of a panel discussion on pasture improvement. Panel members were Denzil Patton, Bob Lott, Mike Heffron and Pat Carbin.

In charge of the program was County Extension Director Lloyd Reid.

Here's a summary of show results:

Best 10 Ears of Corn—M. E. Boardman, Blakesburg, first; John Wales, Melrose, second; and Ed Carr, Melrose, third.

Best Basket of Ears—Boardman, first; Andy Kametz, Albia, second; and Lahart Brothers, Albia, third.

Best Shelling Ear (percentage basis)—Dick Sandifer, Blakesburg, first, 88.8 per cent; Ed Carr, Melrose, second, 87.5 per cent; Ed Robinson, Blakesburg, third, 86.36 per cent.

Most Exhibit Classes Entered—Kametz, first; Virgil Scribner, Ed-dyville, second; Boardman, third; John Wilson, Moravia, fourth.

Best Gallon Oats—Virgil Scribner, first; Lloyd Goode, second.

Best Gallon Wheat—John Wilson, first; Andy Kametz, second.

Best Gallon Soybeans—Sterling Martin, first.

Best Bundle Alfalfa Hay—Sterling Martin, first; Virgil Scribner, second.

See Rapid Progress In Conservation On Our Farms

Survey Indicates Commissioners Are Optimistic.

Progress in soil conservation in the next three years will be double that of the past three, most Soil District Commissioners of Appanoose, Davis, Wapello and Monroe counties believe.

During a four-county soils meeting here Tuesday, attended by commissioners, SCS personnel and Iowa Conservation committee officials, a questionnaire on future progress was distributed by James Foster, chairman of the Monroe county district and a member of the state committee.

Fifteen of those who filled out the questionnaire estimated that rate of progress in conservation practices will double in the next three years. Ten said it will triple. One answered that progress will be about the same, and another believes it will more than triple.

Guest speakers at the meeting were Charles Greenlee, former Monroe county extension director who is now directing a Farm Family Planning program in this area, and Wayne Pritchard, executive secretary of the Iowa Conservation committee.

The planning program on which Greenlee reported covers utilization of land, capital and labor. He said the goals set up by participating families show clearly that they consider farming a way of life—not simply a way of making a living. Goals, he added, do not vary much on the basis of the age of the planners.

Commissioners who attended the recent soils short course at Ames gave reports concerning it, and there was a discussion of soil conservation activities in the four counties.

January 16, 1950

Take Tree Requests Through February

More than 1,400,000 trees and shrubs produced at the state forest nursery, Ames, are available to farmers and to sportsmen's clubs for erosion control and wildlife plantings.

Orders may be placed up to March 1 with county extension directors, Soil Conservation Service personnel, and state conservation officers. Delivery will be made between April 20 and May 15. Deliveries will commence in the south part of the state and will progress northward as the season advances.

Stock listed includes black locust,

green ash, black walnut, white oak and red oak. Conifers are white, red, jack, Virginia, shortleaf and Western yellow pine, and white spruce. Wildlife species include Russian olive, wild plum, red haw, wild grames and dogwood.

Costs of trees range from \$5 to \$9 per thousand, with stratified walnuts available at \$1 for 250 nuts.

Limited numbers of multiflora rose seedlings will be available, it was announced.

February 9, 1950

EDITORIALS

Conservation Progress

What's your guess?

Meeting here last week a group of soils conservation experts from four Southern Iowa counties discussed the probable progress to be made in soil conservation work during the next three years. Fifteen of the experts predicted the progress would double, ten said it would triple.

Locally, the soils officials and the commissioners are expecting a snowballing of the program, and well they might. Commenting on the program and its spread the other day, Jim Foster said, "It's no longer necessary to try to sell soil conservation on the basis of patriotism, on the basis of what it will do for future generations. Those farmers who have done a good soil conservation job have found out that it's paying off in dollars and cents and the word is getting around to those farmers who haven't been practicing it."

It wasn't too many years ago that soil conservation got its formal start. Up to that time a man buying a farm judged it primarily by the color of the soil, whether it was a good black soil. He sometimes probed its depth. And he looked at the buildings on the farm.

But today's farmer is becoming increasingly aware of the fact that if he

buys a poor farm he's going to pay for another man's neglect. Watch the farm advertisements and you'll see increasing mention of the fact that the farm has had a soil conservation plan in effect for so many years, that it has so many miles of terracing, or that it's been contoured, etc. Among today's farmers soil conservation is something to be considered in buying the land. It's something to be proud of when selling it.

Last year Monroe county completed 35 additional conservation plans for its farms. That isn't much considering what has to be done. But it's a lot for one year when you consider the work involved and the progress it spells.

Monroe county's progress is somewhat behind that of some of the counties in the state. Perhaps our progress here will be somewhat limited by the amount of work which can be done by the personnel available. On the other hand, there are conservation practices which any farmer can be putting into effect on his own. And it's the combination of these practices, plus the more formal work of the Soils conservation district, which causes us to agree that the progress in conservation practices in the next three years will be more than double in Monroe county.

January 19, 1950

Farmers Can Increase Fields, Conserve Water and Soil by Good Management

The farmer who fits soil, crop and livestock programs to his soil and his own needs will get many short-time as well as long-time benefits. In the opinion of G. M. Browning, manager of the outlying experimental farms of Iowa State College.

The three big benefits listed by Browning are saving of soil, saving of water and increased yields. Other benefits include improving soil structure and making organic matter available, saving of power and machinery, reducing flood damage, a general increase in efficiency of production, and benefits to the community.

Need Grass, Legumes

A high acreage of erosive inter-tilled crops without enough soil-building grasses and legumes con-

tributes to serious sheet and gully erosion, says Browning. Mechanical practices such as contouring, strip cropping and terracing can aid in preventing erosion such as that which has occurred during the 60 to 70 years we have farmed Iowa soil.

The same practices that save soil also save water. Browning points out. Studies show that a good rotation supplemented with mechanical practices can make an additional 2 to 6 inches of water available to crops.

Yield increases resulting from use of some soil management practices are evident the first year. Other practices require several years to show maximum benefit, says Browning.

Only Alfalfa Seed Supply Sufficient

Iowa farmers are faced with a shortage of forage crop seed during the next several years, according to J. M. Scholl, Darrel Metcalfe and V. B. Hawk, Iowa State College agronomists.

The expected shortage will result from an increased demand rather than from a decrease in production, the agronomists say. They point out that the 1949 production of six leading forage seed crops was 8 percent greater than 1948 production. But, in most cases, it doesn't equal the expected need for this year.

Enough Alfalfa

The record breaking 1949 alfalfa seed crop was the only major forage seed crop which was large enough to meet the 1950 demand. Production of red clover seed was only slightly over 60 percent of the amount needed this year.

Farmers are paying the highest prices on record for timothy and brome seed—two important Iowa forage crops. Last year's timothy seed production was less than half of the amount needed for this year. And brome seed production was less than one-fourth of the 1950 need.

The agronomists point out that Production Marketing Administration surveys indicate a continued increase in forage seed needs. By 1955 the forage seed demand will be 40 percent greater than this year. And by 1960 it will be 60 percent greater than in 1950.

Iowa Importer

These comparisons are based on national production and needs. But the agronomists think they are of particular importance to the Iowa farmer because Iowa always imports a large amount of forage seed. The state has never produced enough of most forage seeds to meet its own demands.

The forthcoming government curtailment of corn acreage is one of the big reasons for larger forage seed needs, the agronomists believe. About 2 million Iowa crop acres may be changed from production of corn to some other crop. A good share of that acreage will probably be seeded to forage crops.

Crops Yields Increase

In a 5-year study of about 300 fields in cooperation with farmers throughout Iowa, contouring increased the average corn yield 7 bushels per acre. Oat yields were increased 5 bushels per acre and soybean yields 3 bushels.

Browning says that production increases of 10 to 25 percent are common where complete soil, crop and livestock management programs have been adopted.

Another way in which Browning says soil conservation pays in that machinery operation costs are lower. Contour farming takes about 10 per cent less power than farming up and down hill. Also, machinery lasts longer when operated over fields which have no gullies.

February 9, 1950

Group 22's Second Planning Meeting Monday Night

Farmers Pushing Ahead With Soil Conservation.

Monroe county farmers are getting set for a new planting season and many of them will carry out 1950 operations on the basis of soil conservation programs now being mapped at Soils District group meetings.

Groups 21, located in Troy township south of Albia, is holding the last of its series of three preliminary meetings tonight.

Group 22, located in Troy township southeast of Albia, has its second meeting scheduled for next Monday evening at the Soils Conservation District office here.

Another of the newer groups, 20, located in southwest Monroe township and southeast Franklin, completed its planning meetings last month.

According to SCS Farm Planner Harold Anderson, the following material is covered in the three meetings:

1. Soil and soil erosion and development of a land classification chart.

2. Soil treatments and special practices on cropland, hayland and pasture; erosion control practices and rotations on cropland.

3. General farm organization; pasture treatment and management; general principles of woodland and wildlife management.

Throughout the year Anderson will go over each farm with the owner, or the operator in case a tenant farms the land, to solve specific problems and help work out a complete conservation plan.

In the meantime, necessary assistance in laying out conservation practices is given by the SCS staff.

Here are the group memberships:

Group 20—James F. Bennett, Kenneth C. Johnson, Warren Rouse, Wayne Clark, William Hagerman, Arlin Hagerman, Lester White, John Van Zante, Carl Van Zante, Ralph Shelquist, Ray McCloud, Frank M. Wilson, Harry Woodward, Frank Woodward, Harold Mason, Zell Callen, Owner Iva Turner and Operator Marvin Prose, Owner J. E. King and Operator George McCombs, and Owner Dennis Homerin and Operator Donald McCloud.

Group 21—Wendell A. Rowles, G. L. Laughhead, Clint Swartz, Cyrus Hall, Arthur E. Anderson, Kenneth Hinton, Oscar Tedford, E. Clark, Lorraine Anderson, John Spencer, Wilbur Bevins, and Owner W. S. Chester and Operator Earl Rowley.

Group 22—Howard Jennison, Earl W. Jones, J. W. A. McGilvrey, Fred Orr, Bernard Dicks, Francis Dicks, Russell Hackett, Reba Cottrell, Marvin Kruse, Owner D. E. Wynes and Operator Alfred Miller.

February 9, 1950

Rotation of Pasture Aids Hog Income, Wallace Says

Rotated pastures for hogs have helped boost incomes in three different ways on Iowa State college Foundation Farms throughout Iowa.

James J. Wallace, manager of the farms, says the pastures lowered some of the other feed requirements, produced healthier pigs through improved sanitation and brought larger yields in crops following the hogs.

He says these last two advantages didn't show up when permanent pastures were used. Records kept on the farms show that 12 to 14 pigs are about as many as an acre of pasture should handle.

Good pasture actually replaced some expensive protein feeds, but grain requirements for each 100 pounds of grain remained about the same, Wallace says.

Mixture Used

The seeding mixture that has worked best is 6 pounds of alfalfa, 5 pounds of brome, 3 pounds of red clover, 3 pounds of timothy and 1/2 pound of ladino clover.

Red clover and timothy are included to fill in where alfalfa and brome fail to catch. The brome provides earlier pasture in the spring, but hogs don't eat it after the clovers and alfalfa appear, the farm manager observes.

He says brome also improves the soil structure and prevents muddy conditions underfoot. The ladino clover is especially good in fall and late summer when the alfalfa and red clover fade out.

Fencing, Water Problems

Other management problems that had to be solved in using rotated hog pastures were water supplies and fencing.

On one farm a well was drilled at a point from which 12 different pastures could be supplied by a pressure pump. Wallace says scooped pits worked out all right on farms with tight subsoils. Tank wagons are used to haul water on some of the farms.

Temporary fences are used for rotation hog pastures on Foundation Farms. They are made of short steel posts and 32-inch woven wire, and are moved once or twice a year. Wallace says 7-foot steel posts can be cut in two to make practical posts for temporary hog pasture.

February 9, 1950

Offer Canarygrass And Lespedeza

The Committee for Agricultural Development has some Iowa 6 lespedeza available in limited quantities. This seed is being offered to growers in southern Iowa. Iowa 6 is an outstanding variety of early maturing Korean lespedeza developed at the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station.

This variety is a vigorous, high producer of both forage and seed, and early enough in maturity to reseed itself in the southern half of Iowa. One of the important features of Iowa 6 is its resistance to bacterial wilt.

There is also a limited supply of forced canarygrass seed available to growers. This forage has long been recognized as especially well adapted to wet and poorly drained soil. It is a vigorous perennial which forms a heavy sod. It is coming into its own as a means of gully control in soil erosive areas.

Growers interested in either of these varieties should contact the

Foster Leaves Soils District Office Here

Balloting Slated Soon for 6-Year Term on Board.

First in a series of 1950 elections in Monroe county will be the selection of a commissioner for the county's soils district.

The election meeting will take place late this month or early in March. It was announced today by James Foster, chairman of the board of three commissioners.

The district administrators—Sterling Martin and Alton Wilcox—serve with Foster—are planning a program of general interest in connection with the balloting.

A commissioner will be named for a term of six years to succeed Foster, who won't seek reelection. He'll complete his present term in May.

All landowners are eligible to participate in the balloting.

Foster is now a member of the Iowa Soil Conservation committee, top administrative agency for the district soils program in Iowa. He's also a dirt farmer, and retirement from the county board will give him more time for his state office and his farm responsibilities.

Martin has four more years to serve, while Wilcox has completed almost four years of his six-year term.

Members of the board of commissioners are elected at large in the county. However, in the present setup, the membership is rather well spread geographically. Martin lives west of Albia, Wilcox east, and Foster north.

Jim Wallace, manager of Iowa State college farms, will be invited to speak at the election meeting. Wallace will tell about the development of worn-out farms into money-makers through the adoption of soil conservation practices. For example, one of the college farms which sold for \$12 an acre now has a corn productivity record of 100 bushels per acre.

February 2, 1950

Committee for Agricultural Development, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, for more information.

February 23, 1950

February 27, 1950

Choose Monroe Men For Valley Board

Ed Agans of Albia and Sterling Martin of Melrose were elected to the board of directors of the Chariton Valley Conservation association during the organization's annual meeting in Chariton Tuesday.

Martin, a farmer, is a Monroe soils district commissioner. Agans is manager of the Chariton Valley Electric Co-operative.

The association, made up of representatives of counties in the Chariton River watershed, is concerned with flood control and conservation activities in the valley.

Other board members named Tuesday include:

Arthur Streepy, Clifford Foster, A. K. Young, Delmont Moffit and Averil Caster, Appanoose county; Walter Hickman, M. K. Allred, Allen Minger and O. K. Engine, Wayne county; Vogel Smith, R. V. Levis and Leo Hoegh, Lucas county; Frank Gonseth, Clarke county; Earl Scott, Decatur county.

Retired from the board were Robert Beck and Warren Langfitt, Appanoose, and Donald Norberg, Monroe.

February 29, 1950

Landlord Can Share Fertilizer Costs

Most Iowans agree that fertilizer is one farm improvement that pays for itself in the long run.

But, as in most farm improvements, there's always the question of who makes the original cash outlay for fertilizer on a rented farm, observes I. W. Arthur, extension farm economist at Iowa State college.

On a cash-rent farm, he says the landlord can well afford to pay half of the phosphate fertilizer that goes on oats and seedings, in order to protect his investment in grass and legume seed.

Where renting is done on a crop-share lease, the landlord can afford to go along on some nitrogen fertilizer on seedings, besides paying for half of the phosphate. In addition, he can pay for half of the mixed fertilizer that goes on corn ground, without skating on thin ice financially. On some crop-share farms, the fertilizer bill is divided in the same proportion as the crops are shared. For example, if the grain is divided into two-fifths and three-fifths, then the fertilizer bill is split the same way.

Arthur thinks the landlord can afford to pay half of all the fertilizer bills where farming is done on a stock-share lease basis.

He points out that in some cases, regardless of the kind of lease, landlords now are paying 60 per cent of the phosphate fertilizer bill because the extremely unpleasant job of spreading the phosphate is done by the tenant.

Lime presents another problem on the modern rented farm. Historically, the landlord has always paid liming costs. However, this arrangement was worked out back in the days when the farmer hauled and spread lime.

Now, with trucking and spreading done in one operation, the landlord still stands the expense. But, on a growing percentage of Iowa's rented farms, the cost of lime is being shared by the tenant, Arthur says. And in some of these cases, the landlord protects the tenant's investment for five years. Thus, if the tenant moves off the farm before the five years are up, the landlord repays the tenant for the unused value of his investment in lime.

34,088 Acres Granted for This Year

As Compared With 3-Year Average of 43,182 Acres.

Monroe county's corn acreage allotment for 1950 was announced today at PMA headquarters here.

It is 34,088 acres.

The allotment represents a cut of 21.1 per cent from the 44,247 acres harvested in 1949.

If all corn growers plant within their shares of the county allotment, corn acreage in the county will be down slightly more than 9,000 acres from the 43,182 average of the past three years.

The county PMA committee has started the task of assigning allotments to individual farms.

On the basis of the formula being used, a farmer who has had an average of 60 acres of corn through the 1947-49 period will take a cut of about 13 acres for 1950.

Growers don't have to abide by the allotments. But, if they don't, they will not qualify for price support loans on their crops.

Farmers can also appeal from the allotment figures set up for their farms.

Allotments for individual farms will be based on average acres planted to corn in 1947-49, plus such factors as tillable acreage, crop-rotation practices, type of soil and topography.

County and community PMA committeemen have approved 11 practices for the 1950 agricultural conservation program—two more than last year. The new practices are the seeding of biennial and perennial legumes above usual acreages, and diversion terraces. Other approved practices are:

Standard terraces, contouring of intertilled crops, establishment of contour strip cropping, establishment of sod waterways, dams for livestock water, reseeding or establishment of permanent pastures, application of limestone, application of fertilizers and green manure crops.

Here are 1950 corn acreage allotments for other counties in this area, and the percent of decrease in 1950 from 1949 harvested acres:

Appanoose, 34,577 acres, 20.7 per cent; Davis, 37,080 acres, 23 per cent; Lucas, 36,900 acres, 23.9 per cent; Mahaska, 91,823 acres, 25.5 per cent; Wapello, 46,272 acres, 22.4 per cent.

February 16, 1950

Parents Guests of FFA Boys At Dinner Program Feb. 15

The annual banquet program of the Albia High school chapter, Future Farmers of America, will be held at the school Wednesday.

Parents of FFA members will be guests at the affair, scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Gerald Barton of Des Moines, executive secretary of the Iowa Association Future Farmers of America.

The Rev. G. S. Bruland will give the invocation.

Following the dinner officers of the chapter will conduct traditional ceremonies for the opening of chapter sessions, and Duane Willson, president, will introduce guests.

The address of welcome will be by Dale Sullivan, and Superintendent of Schools W. W. Hartzell will give the response.

Other speakers, all FFA members, will be Dean Stocker, Donald Patton and Jack Chamberlain.

Entertainment will include instrumental selections by Richard Feele and songs by Bill Stuchel.

Roland Miller will recite the FFA creed.

The Albia chapter, for which Vocational Agriculture Director Howard Willson serves as adviser, has 57 members. This week's banquet program will be the fifteenth of its type.

Chapters throughout Iowa will observe Iowa Future Farmers Week beginning Feb. 19. The week has been officially proclaimed by Governor William Beardsley. Although a few days early, the Albia chapter counts its dinner program as a part of the special week observance.

February 13, 1950

Valley Group Sets Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Chariton Valley Conservation association will be held Tuesday afternoon in the Lucas county court house at Chariton, according to an announcement by John McCaughy of Centerville, secretary-treasurer of the organization.

The association is concerned with flood control and soils conservation programs in the Chariton River watershed. Present directors include one of the commissioners of each of the six soil conservation districts in the valley and 12 other men, four in Appanoose county, three in Wayne and one each in Decatur, Clarke and Monroe counties.

Monroe directors are Sterling Martin, soil district commissioner, and Duke Norberg of Albia, editor of The Monroe County News.

A new board will be named during the Tuesday meeting, and will in turn select officers. Retiring officers are Arthur M. Streepy, Centerville, president; Vogel W. Smith, Russell, vice president; and McCaughy, secretary-treasurer.

February 20, 1950

Start Terrace Plans Now, Hull Advises

Start your 1950 and '51 terrace plans now, advises Dale Hull, agricultural engineer at Iowa State college.

Farmers in soil areas where terrace outlets are used will want to establish grass waterways this spring for terraces they expect to put in next fall or early in 1951.

If possible locate grass waterways where they will interfere least with farm operations. Hull suggests using present field divisions for waterways. Locate the terrace outlet where you can form a waterway that is at least 20 feet wide across the bottom.

Pick the course of the waterway carefully since not every route will work. Waterways are sometimes located where they are difficult to build and repair.

Seed Early

After the route has been selected and as soon as the ground thaws out this spring, Hull says to grade the waterways and seed them down with heavy-rooted grasses.

Recommended seed mixtures for waterways include such grasses as bromegrass, timothy, red top (in less fertile, wet areas) reed canary-grass (in wet areas) and some bluegrass. Any grass mixture should include only grasses that are common and well adapted to the area where they are used. Alfalfa and sweetclover should be avoided in waterway seedings, since their large taproots loosen the soil.

Reed canarygrass roots may be disked in, and Hull says it's a good idea to put on a mulch to help hold the soil when the first heavy rains hit the waterway. To insure a good stand of grass, he also advises putting plenty of manure on the waterway seeding.

Fill Gullies

By getting waterways seeded down early, they'll be well established by fall or next spring when they are put into use as part of a new terrace system, Hull explains.

He says that farmers in western Iowa areas who plan to do some level terrace work this year will want to start thinking about getting gullies filled.

The agricultural engineer says to have a bulldozer stockpile all the topsoil around the area where dirt is to be taken to fill a gully. Then after the main part of the gully has been filled, the waterway can be shaped and covered with the topsoil that has been saved. Even two inches of black soil evenly spread over the waterway will speed grass growth and make it easier to get a thick, healthy stand.

February 22, 1950

Recommend 5 Types Of Soybean Seed

1-18

Soybean varieties "tailor-made" by plant specialists to fit various sections of Iowa will be the best for growers in 1950, says C. R. Weber, Iowa State College agronomist.

Adams, Hawkeye, Lincoln, Earlyana and Chief are varieties recommended in Iowa for the coming year.

Adams was released to Iowa growers in 1949. It grows well in central and southern Iowa, but it is not generally recommended for the northern three tiers of counties in the state. Weber reports that Adams yields slightly higher than Lincoln, an older variety recommended for the same area.

Adams Seed Limited

Adams ripens a few days earlier than Lincoln, is the same height and has a little higher oil content. It is being recommended to share the Lincoln acreage for the coming year. Seed of Adams for 1950 must be obtained from your county seed distribution committee.

The Lincoln variety is the most extensively grown in the Midwest. It has gained recognition because of its high yield, ability to stand until combined and because of its high oil content.

Weber recommends Hawkeye soybeans for northern and central Iowa. He says they yield 4 to 6 bushels more per acre than the Richland variety which was once popular in the same area. Hawkeye is 4 inches taller and has a higher oil content than Richland.

Hawkeye for Richland

Hawkeye should replace all the Richland acreage and may be used for delayed planting in southern Iowa. When Hawkeye is grown in extreme northern Iowa, Weber advises planting a little early—May 10-20.

He says that the Earlyana variety is best suited for planting on soils of medium fertility in northeastern and northern Iowa.

The Chief soybean is well adapted to less fertile soils in the southern tier of Iowa counties.

Feb 16, 1950

Applications Ready For Signatures

Applications for payments covering earnings under the 149 Agricultural Conservation Program are now ready for signatures at PMA headquarters here.

Meanwhile, the sign-up for the 1950 program is in progress. In some townships local committees are going to farms, while in others meetings are being held to give farmers the opportunity to participate in this year's program. The deadline for signing is April 1. Last year 84 per cent of the county's cropland was included in the conservation program.

Some farmers are appealing 1950 corn acreage allotments, PMA chairman Phil O'Brien said. The deadline for such appeals is March 5, and they must be in writing.

March 9, 1950

The first FFA chapter was organized in Iowa 22 years ago. The organization followed by several years the launching of vocational agriculture programs in Iowa high schools, in 1917, shortly after congress had passed the Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act.

Delegates from 23 schools organized the Iowa Association Future Farmers of America in May, 1929. In September of that year Iowa was granted a charter by the national organization.

First chapters were organized at Kelley, Muscatine, Maquoketa and Charles City. Growth since then has been steady. Iowa now has 182 chapters with 6,500 members.

State officers are Don Jorgensen, Lake City, president; Wendell

Body, Sac City, secretary; and Myron Miller, Charles City, reporter. The six vice presidents are Eldon Stall of Waukee, Larry Siddall of Laurens, Clarence Cannon of West Union, Eugene Van Pelt of Corning, Robert Evans of Brooklyn and Bernard Maier of Eagle Grove.

Barton is executive secretary and H. T. Hall of Des Moines is state adviser. Barton and Hall are associated with the state vocational education department.

Iowa has had 61 successful candidates for the American Farmer degree, highest in FFA. Last October Douglas Behrens of Strawberry Point, Leland Denburger of Oskaloosa, Robert Evans of Brooklyn, Donald Henik of Lisbon, Donald Jorgensen of Lake City and Richard Richardson of Mount Ayr received this degree at the national convention in Kansas City.

Honorary members elected at Cedar Rapids at the twenty-first state convention were Governor Beardsley, Chuck Worcester, Cedar Rapids; R. C. Anderson, Cedar Rapids; William M. Wichelmann, LeMars; H. Wayne Pritchard, Sac City; Ronald V. Diggins, Eagle Grove; Clyde Spry, Des Moines; J. B. McClelland, Ames; Paul Anthony, Cedar Rapids; Rex E. Ruch, Denison, and Marshall Grosscup, Jesup.

The Iowa Association Future Farmers of America is made up of boys studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools under the provision of the state and national vocational education acts. It is a non-profit, non-political farm youth organization of voluntary membership, designed to take its place with other agencies striving for the building of a more permanent agriculture and the improvement of country life.

Major purposes of the organization are to develop leadership, co-operation, citizenship, patriotism, character and improved farming. It encourages thrift, scholarship, rural recreation activities and improvement of the farm home and its surroundings. It assists members in learning how to work together, to accept responsibility, to deal effectively with themselves and to develop their individual talents.

Vocational agriculture departments in high schools provide four-year courses of systematic instruction in agriculture and farm mechanics. The teachers of vocational agriculture are agricultural college graduates who are employed on a 12-months basis. Instruction is provided in the classroom and on the farm. Throughout the year, instructors assist students in the development of their individual farming programs on their home farms.

There are four degrees of active membership—Green Hand, Chapter

Farmer, State Farmer and American Farmer. Advancement through these grades of membership is based on achievement in vocational agriculture and progressive establishment in farming. Members may retain active status while in school and for three years after graduating.

Nominate Bell, Berry and Tom Dougherty

Soils District Voting Here March 15

Wallace Speaker At High School In Afternoon.

Monroe county landowners will choose a Soil Conservation District commissioner from a slate of three candidates in balloting scheduled here March 15.

The nominees are Frank Bell, Homer Berry and Tom Dougherty, all Bluff Creek township farm owners and operators.

The election will be a feature of the annual meeting of the district, to be held in Albia High school auditorium. Voters may mark ballots there from 12:30 to 4 p.m. A special program is planned, beginning at 1 p.m.

Absentee voters may obtain ballots by writing to County Auditor Ray V. McCollum, giving name, residence, and location and acreage of land owned in Monroe county.

The new district commissioner will succeed James W. Foster, not a candidate for re-election. Other commissioners are Sterling Martin and Alton Wilcox.

The annual meeting is for all farm owners and operators, their wives, and city and town people interested in conservation and agricultural progress, it was announced.

Guest speaker will be James J. Wallace, manager of the 12 Iowa State College Foundation Farms. His topic is "The Human Side of Farming."

A movie, "Grass Roots of the Soil," will be screened.

Commissioner Martin will give a progress report covering the six years of district operation.

Election judges will be Wilcox and Clifford Davis, a member of the Monroe county board of supervisors. Pat Carbin will serve as clerk.

Recent action of the commissioners has included approval of soil plans for the following:

W. P. Judge, group 11, 200 acres;
Phil Evans, group 18, 160 acres;
Jack Avon, group 4, 183 acres.

The newly organized work in Gullford township was given board approval. The group includes 12 farmers with 4,174 acres. Alvin M. Potts, Lovilla, was added to the G1 group.

March 2, 1950

Hazen Cites PMA Contributions

The Iowa Production and Marketing Administration committee efforts are tying in with the over-all aim of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to provide services that will assist farmers in attaining solidarity and permanency in their enterprise so they may produce abundantly for present and future generations, according to Hervey Hazen, state PMA Committee chairman.

Keeping the land in good fertility, erosion and waste in check, the water supply and crop production in abundance figure as top problems. Of equal importance, however, is the problem of taking care of this abundance so that it may prove to be a blessing to all. Hazen points out that PMA committees elected in every county and community form a service branch of administration for all such programs.

Congress has assumed a share of the responsibility for better farming standards by providing funds to assist farmers in carrying out necessary conservation practices. The distribution of funds to farmers for conservation practices is administered by the ACP branch of PMA. Important among these practices, according to Hazen, are application of lime, phosphate, nitrogen, and potash.

The drop in farm prices has had

a tendency to slow up all conservation work. Hazen says that a fair price support program is conducive to better land care.

Hazen also points out that PMA committees have done a big job in helping stabilize farm prices through the loan and purchase agreement programs. In Iowa last year 196 million bushels of 1948 corn were under loans and purchase agreement. Already more

than 7.5 million bushels of 1949 corn are under seal and purchase agreement and this program is only well begun.

In looking ahead, he says that the challenge to farmers this year will be the most efficient use of land that must be shifted from crops already in abundance. Grass and legumes with increased livestock production offers the solution and this will demand more use of lime and fertilizer.

New Soil-Testing Equipment and Methods At Iowa State Lab Speed Tests of Soil

Better and faster service for Iowa farmers has been the main idea behind new equipment and ultra-modern methods recently set up to test soil samples at Iowa State College.

The soil testing laboratory now occupies its own building, has machines developed especially for soil testing, and has technicians that are trained to do each part of the test efficiently and rapidly.

4,000 Samples Per Month

With newly designed machines and production line techniques laboratory workers have been processing an average of 4,000 samples per month since September.

That's a lot of samples, especially since each sample must be held in a drying cabinet 10 days to iron out moisture variations due to season and type of soil.

Before the soil goes into the moisture condition cabinet, it is put into a crusher that has been designed by college technicians. The college is applying for patent rights on the machine, which automatically crushes the sample to particles of uniform size and removes dust. It replaces a hand method of crushing that would require several workers with steel rolling pins to process the number of samples the laboratory now handles.

Check on Acidity

After treatment in the cabinet, each sample is tested by a "PH meter" to determine whether the soil is acid or alkaline.

Phosphorus and potassium determinations are made by placing the samples in racks of 12. Solutions are added to all 12 in one operation, instead of treating the samples one at a time. Special machines are used to dispense chemicals through jets which are located to match the 12 samples in each rack.

After tests have been completed, results are turned over to soil specialists who make recommendations. They determine whether the soil will respond to fertilizer and the kind of fertilizer needed.

Results and recommendations are mailed out to farmers as fast as they are completed.

March 2, 1950

Speaker



Guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Monroe County Soil Conservation District March 15 will be James J. Wallace, above, manager of the Iowa State College Foundation Farms.

March 2, 1950

March 2, 1950

Improved Pastures Boost Net Return From Cattle

53 Farmers Join In Discussions Here Tuesday.

Monroe county farmers discussed swine breed and feeding and maximum use of pasture for cattle with Iowa State college experts at Farm Bureau Hall Tuesday afternoon.

Fifty-three farmers participated in the conference.

Professor E. L. Quaife reviewed progress in the cross breeding program for swine, emphasizing that

packers are looking for a slightly longer hog which retains enough fattening ability to finish out well.

Professor C. W. McDonald reviewed experimental results at the Albja Pasture farm.

He revealed that renovated birdsfoot trefoil and blue grass pasture, over a two-year period, averaged a net income through beef cattle of \$19 per acre. He contrasted this with an income of minus-\$3 per acre for unimproved bluegrass pasture.

The combination of bluegrass and birdsfoot gave the highest net return per acre in comparison with all other types of pasture.

March 2, 1950

Need Conservation Program on Every Farm To Make Iowa's Agriculture Efficient

A good soil conservation program on every farm is necessary to put Iowa's agriculture production on an efficient basis in years ahead, according to Frank Mendell, state conservationist of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

A well managed soil is basic to efficient crop and livestock production. The same forages grown to help hold top soil erosion in check are needed to condition the soil for top crop yields and to provide roughages necessary for livestock feed.

The soil conservation program administered through Iowa's 96 soil conservation districts has two aims, according to Mendell. One is to provide for erosion control and the other to maintain the highest level of production consistent with good soil conservation practices.

Aims Related

In Iowa, these two aims fit together well. Mendell points out that if an Iowa farmer applies a program on his land that will prevent erosion, he'll have a program that will come close to giving him maximum corn production.

Long-term objective of the Soil Conservation Service is to get every farmer to adopt a plan that will fit his farming practices to his land. Since the organization of the first soil district in Iowa in 1940, 18,000 farm plans have gone into effect. And Mendell points out that this reflects only a part of the activities of the soil conservation districts. Soil district commissioners help hundreds of farmers who have not adopted a specific farm plan with conservation problems.

Mendell looks for much greater progress during the next 10 years than was made during the past decade. "We are geared today for real production in conservation. District organization is almost complete in Iowa, policies have been established, research and educational programs along with technical operations programs are set up. It has taken a good part of the past 10 years to get tooled up to do the job," Mendell states.

A better understanding on the part of everyone has been a good influence on conservation, Mendell observes. Bankers, businessmen, professional men, labor, contractors, school teachers and others have a keener interest in conserva-

tion. Farmers are more conscious of their responsibility to their land and to their community.

March 2, 1950

